



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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AIR DISTRICT PROPOSES REGULATION FOR PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING

Coal- and oil-fired power plants aren't the only sources of dangerous air toxics. Cement plants are also culprits. Recently, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District introduced an initiative similar to the EPA's MATS regulations, but in this case targeting cement plants. The Air District Draft Regulation 9, Rule 13 (which bears the clunky title "Nitrogen Oxides, Particulate Matter, and Toxic Air Contaminants from Portland Cement Manufacturing") attempts to reduce emissions dramatically from Portland cement manufacturing facilities such as the Lehigh Permanente facility in Cupertino.

Portland cement isn't a company name, but a kind of cement — the most common type of cement used around the world, in fact. It gets its name from its similarity to Portland stone, a strong building stone found on the Isle of Portland in Dorset, England. Producing Portland cement involves heating limestone, iron, and other raw materials to produce cement clinker, which is then ground to a dusty powder and mixed with calcium sulfate and other additives. Unfortunately, the process produces numerous pollutants.

The Air District's new drafted rule would principally limit how much nitrogen oxides and particulate matter Portland cement plants can emit into the air. The rule would also draw new limits for the emission of other toxic air contaminants such as ammonia, dioxins and furans, mercury, and hydrogen chloride, all of which are common — and hazardous — byproducts of manufacturing Portland cement. The smokestacks that emit these air toxics would be required to have "an emission point not less than 300 feet above grade" and the rule would further call for limits on the opacity of the particulate plumes emitted from other sources at the facility. Formulation of a dust mitigation plan would be necessary as well.

In regulating these emissions, the rule would not only require plants to implement and maintain new policies and procedures, but also potentially pay for new hardware and employee training.

In August 2010, the EPA attempted on a federal level to create air pollution standards pertaining to the manufacturing of Portland cement, but this effort has been challenged in court by cement industry associations and individual companies who contend that the standards are too stringent and unfair. Regionally, the Air District's proposed regulation meets the EPA's proposed emission limits in anticipation that the federal rule might be stayed indefinitely.

The Bay Area currently holds non-attainment status with regard to both federal and state ozone and particulate standards. To help meet these standards, the Air District's 2010 Clean Air Plan identified reductions in Portland cement emissions as one possible way to improve regional air quality. Draft Rule 9-13 attempts to do just that. The proposed regulation was discussed in a public workshop in Cupertino held on December 12. If adopted, the rule would go into effect September 9, 2013.

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THE GRAND BOULEVARD INITIATIVE PRESENTS...

A Walk the Talk Forum
Sunnyvale and El Camino Real
Monday, March 5
6:00 pm — 8:30 pm
Sunnyvale City Hall Council Chambers
456 W Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale

This is the third workshop in a series on the Grand Boulevard Initiative, re-imagining El Camino Real as a place for residents to safely walk or ride their bikes, where new apartments open onto public plazas, sidewalk cafes and bustling shopping districts, and where the historic downtowns of cities like Sunnyvale enjoy a renaissance.

**IN MEMORIUM
RUTHELLA CALDWELL**

We sadly report the death of Ruhtella Caldwell, one of the founding members of the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League, at the age of 93 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

I met Ruthella when I joined the League in 1973. She was my mentor. Everything I know about League I learned by watching Ruthella. She was a mentor to many of us, teaching us how to present Pros and Cons, moderate candidate forums, and conduct studies. Her legacy has enriched our communities.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

Roberta Hollimon

UPCOMING NEEDS

The financial records of the League need to be reviewed every year. The League is looking for someone to perform this task. You don't need to be a CPA but some background in finance is desirable. If you would like to help or get more information about the task, contact lwwcseditor@compuserve.net.

Board Briefs

At its February meeting, your board:

- Learned that Sharon Jenks will chair the Budget Committee. Nancy Burnett, Roberta Hollimon and Russ Howard will serve on the committee.
- Heard that there will be two state initiatives on the June ballot. Susan Hough will make Pros and Cons presentations with the assistance of Michael Lusk and Mary Boyle.
- Were informed that Laurel Room at the Sunnyvale Senior Center will be the site of the Annual Meeting on Saturday June 2, 2012.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Mary Boyle, Dorothy Normark, and Albert and Joan Wehde.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Joyce Bartlett, Bruce Kendall, Norma Medlin, Charles and Leanne Untilus, and Dave Whittum and Dolores Ayala..

Thank you for your donation to the Community Appeal: Nancy Burnett and Terry Grant.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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AN OBSERVATION ON REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE

BY ALEC MACDONALD

The saying goes that all politics is local, and few would deny the reality of this catchy mantra. Yet lately, politics around here have started feeling distinctly... regional.

Why? Because that's been the scope of many pointed political conversations these days. Perhaps most conspicuously, a lively discussion has been unfolding over how regional government officials should manage the Bay Area's growth. But not to be overlooked, another dialogue has focused attention on the growth of regional government itself. Does this burgeoning exchange of words and ideas signify a new era of interconnectedness among the nine counties that ring the San Francisco Bay? Not necessarily, but proponents for a stronger spirit of regionalism might find reason to be encouraged by all the chatter, even if it comes with an edge of controversy.

Friction and frustration have been in ample supply at the second round of Plan Bay Area public workshops this winter. For this round of workshops, regional agencies have invited residents to weigh in on a set of five distinct scenarios, each outlining a different way to arrange the Bay Area's jobs, housing, and transit over the coming decades. Not everyone, however, has embraced the opportunity; in fact, a number of people have attended the workshops with the sole purpose of expressing their displeasure that government should attempt such an undertaking at all.

Although these protestations have prevented the recent workshops from running as smoothly as organizers would like, all the hubbub has attracted a level of media attention that regional governmental affairs almost never receive. The unfortunate truth is that many residents don't even know the names of the agencies in charge of the Plan Bay Area effort, despite its impact on their future. In reporting on the workshop disruptions, newspaper and television outlets are overturning that ignorance. Sure, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments would prefer people learn about their existence through a less sensational storyline, but at least

the dramatic coverage demonstrates that something vital is at stake.

In actuality, the brouhaha depicted in print and on the airwaves might not even fully capture just how high the stakes really are. Ultimately, Plan Bay Area represents more than \$200 billion in transportation spending and a shot at curbing global warming — two pretty good reasons for folks to sit up and take notice. What else can be done to see that more of them do?

This question was posed at a December 13 hearing on the mechanisms of regional governance in the Bay Area; convened in Oakland by the state Senate's Transportation and Housing Committee, the event followed on the heels of similar hearings held in San Jose and San Francisco. The agenda for the Oakland hearing uniquely focused on the need to bolster community outreach and public participation, especially as legislators consider adding two additional seats to MTC's 19-member policy board via

passage of Assembly Bill 57 (Beall). With or without this particular change, however, the influence of regional government seems likely to continue expanding, and many observers worry that average citizens are getting left out of the increasingly important decisions occurring at this level. Accordingly, speakers at the hearing called for greater openness, responsiveness, and accountability on the part of regional agencies.

Although articulating a contrasting ideology (and in quieter tones) than the workshop dissidents, these advocates share a key similarity with that crowd: the desire to have a voice in the political process. And that, in a nutshell, is an essential challenge of democracy. Opinions vary from person to person, but

everyone wants to be heard.

How can such a broad mix of perspectives be accommodated? There is no simple solution, only the certainty that, as long as regional agencies uphold their responsibility to engage the public, these conversations will remain animated and quite often contentious. It might not be entirely pleasant, but it's for the good of the Bay Area.

*Reprinted from the Bay Area Monitor
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PLAN BAY AREA SCENARIOS

Input received on the following five scenarios will guide development of a draft preferred scenario set for release in March:

- 1) Initial Vision Scenario
- 2) Core Concentration
- 3) Focused Growth
- 4) Constrained Core Concentration
- 5) Outward Growth

MTC and ABAG will approve the draft preferred scenario in May After environmental review and other analyses are conducted in the remainder of 2012, the final Plan Bay Area will be adopted in April 2013. For more information, visit www.onebayarea.org.

TOP TWO CANDIDATES OPEN PRIMARY ACT

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the “Top-Two Candidates Open Primary Act”.

The “Top-Two Candidates Open Primary Act” changes the way elections are conducted for the following offices, now called Voter-Nominated Offices:

Voter-Nominated Offices

Governor	Insurance Commissioner
Lt. Governor	Board of Equalization
Secretary of State	State Senator
Controller	State Assembly
Treasurer	U.S. Senator
Attorney General	U.S. Representative

Under the “Top-Two Candidates Open Primary Act,” all candidates running for Voter-Nominated Offices, regardless of their party preference, will appear on the single combined ballot, and voters can vote for any candidate from any political party.

The “Top-Two Candidates Open Primary Act” requires that only the two candidates for Voter-Nominated Office who receive the highest and second-highest numbers of votes cast at the primary shall appear on the ballot as candidates at the ensuing General Election.

Party-Nominated Offices

U. S. President and Party Central Committees are Party-Nominated Offices. Voters can vote only for the candidates of the same qualified political party (unless parties allow No Party Preference voters to cross-over and join their primary).

For U. S. President, the candidate chosen nationally by each party is placed on the General Election ballot. For Party Central Committees, the candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary win outright.

Non-Partisan Offices

Non-Partisan Offices include the Superintendent of Public Instruction as well as judicial, county, city, school, and special district offices.

Voters can vote for any candidate. A candidate's political party preference is not listed on the ballot.

In majority vote contests, candidates that receive a majority of the votes (more than 50%) in the Primary win outright. Otherwise, the top two candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary move on to the General Election.

Registrar of Voters, Santa Clara County

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

The Secretary of State would like to see Californians able to register to vote online sometime in the summer of 2012, in time for the November General Election. In October the Governor signed into law SB 397 (Yee) that allows the state to begin registering voters online before the completion of a planned new statewide voter registration database. State elections officials and the Department of Motor Vehicles are currently working on the technical details of using DMV digitized signatures for matching registrations submitted online.

The League, along with many other good government groups, has long supported online voter registration as a way of allowing more people to participate in elections and

of protecting against fraudulent paper registration. Online registrants will be required to provide their birthdate, the number from their valid California driver's license or California ID card, *and* the last four digits of their social security number. Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, has called this development “a game changer.” In the last statewide election in Los Angeles County, his office received 64,000 registration affidavits the day after the deadline. He was certain that if online registration had been in force, many more people would have voted in that election.

League of Women Voters of California

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League and Coalition partners sent a letter urging the Senate to oppose S.J. Res.37, the Congressional Review Act disapproval resolution sponsored by Senator Inhofe that would eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) life-saving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants. This resolution puts the health of our children and families at risk and threatens the quality of our air and water.

State - The LWVC board adopted Legislative Priorities for 2012. The LWVC will continue to make the state budget its highest priority for advocacy: to support reform of the state budgeting process, and to support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues. As time and necessary resources permit, the LWVC will continue to support requests from local Leagues and ILOs for advocacy on bills of specific interest to their jurisdictions, take actions as appropriate on core issues, and take action on high priority bills as recommended by program directors.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

A message from
Elizabeth McNamara, President LWVUS

The League and its partners have demonstrated, once again, that the grassroots can speak up to power! More than 25,000 activists answered our call and signed onto our petition urging the President to begin fixing what ails the Federal Elections Commission. The ball is now in President Obama’s court, and we hope his response will be to make the appointments that restore the FEC to its watchdog role.

As we all know, the Citizens United decision has already had enormous impact on our elections. Currently, we have been hearing about the Super PAC money pouring into the Presidential primary. A robust effort by the FEC to ensure that independent expenditures are indeed independent is an important first step to protect against big special interest money in our elections. Another key component in the battle for clean elections is public information. At the federal level, we are supporting legislation to require complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising let loose by Citizens United. The voting public deserves the opportunity to know and discuss the impact of special interest money on House and Senate races, as well as on statewide judicial elections.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting
Saturday June 2, 2012
Laurel Room
Sunnyvale Senior Center

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to LWVCS to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

_____ \$60 Individual member

Name(s): _____

_____ \$90 Two members in a household

Address: _____

_____ \$30 Student

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

_____ Contribution \$ _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Membership checks are made out to “LWVCS” and are not tax-deductible. Donations to “LWVCS” are also non-deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to “LWVCS Education Fund.”

CALENDAR

March

- Mon 5 6 - 8:30 pm **Grand Boulevard Meeting**
Sunnyvale City Hall Council Chambers
456 W Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale
- Mon 12 7:00 pm **Board Meeting**
Burnett's
729 Stendahl Lane, Cupertino 95014

May

- Sat - Sun 19 - 20 **LWVC Leadership Council**
Holiday Inn, Sacramento

June

- Sat 2 10:00 AM **Annual Meeting**
Laurel Room
Sunnyvale Senior Center
- Fri-Wed 9 - 12 **LWVUS Convention**
Washington DC

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

- President Barack Obama** 202-456-1414
comments@whitehouse.gov
- Senator Barbara Boxer** 415-403-0100
senator@boxer.senate.gov
- Senator Dianne Feinstein** 415-393-0707
senator@feinstein.senate.gov
- Rep. Anna Eshoo** 650-323-2984
annagram@mail.house.gov
- Rep. Mike Honda** 408-558-8075
mike.honda@mail.house.gov

CALIFORNIA

- Governor Jerry Brown** 916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov
- Senator Elaine Alquist** 408-286-8318
senator.alquist@senate.ca.gov
- Senator Joe Simitian** 650-688-6384
senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Paul Fong** 408-277-2003
assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- Supervisor Dave Cortese** 408-299-5030
dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org
- Supervisor Liz Kniss**
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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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FIRST CLASS