



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

January 2014

Volume 41 Number 6

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PROGRAM PLANNING

Date: Wednesday January 22
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Place: Burnett's
 729 Stendhal Lane
 Cupertino, CA 95014

If it's January, it must be time for Program Planning. This is when we decide which issues we want to focus on for the next year or two. According to national League president, Elisabeth MacNamara, "Program, in the League lexicon, is a term of art that refers to those issues that the League, as a whole, takes up for concerted study and action."

This year we will be making suggestions for work at national, Bay Area, and local levels. MacNamara continued saying, "Studying a new position or updating an old one also does not occur in a vacuum and requires significant work. For the past several convention cycles, LWVUS has relied on member-experts to gather and organize study materials and develop consensus questions. In addition, like all other League program, whether state and local studies or state and local education and advocacy, national program plays out alongside our ever more important voter service and advocacy activities."

What should we do? Study Fracking, take action on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, work on Voter Service in Cupertino and Sunnyvale? Come and express your opinion.

For more information contact league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

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Off Board

VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

Date: Wednesday February 5
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Place: Quinlan Center - Conference Room
 10185 N Stelling Road
 Cupertino 95014

This year will be an active election year. We plan to build on the excellent service we gave during the November election in Sunnyvale. Nearly a quarter of our membership helped during the election.

Were you one of those? Maybe not but you want to help this year. Come to the planning session in February and find out how you can help.

For more information contact league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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EDITOR'S NOTES

New Year's greetings. As we look at the coming year activity is picking up as you can see in this VOTER. Plan to be involved in at least one League activity this year.

On this page we list Opportunities for Involvement and Moderator Training. Page 3 offers ways to become more informed about the Bay Delta and Open Space in the Bay Area.

Cupertino will be amending the housing element in its General Plan. See the article on page 4 for different views on how Plan Bay Area can affect neighborhoods.

Roberta Hollimon

MODERATOR TRAINING

The Leagues of Santa Clara County are sponsoring a moderator training to be held the morning of Saturday February 8, 2014. The training is designed to recruit new moderators and to help experienced moderators brush up on their skills. It is also desirable to have Voter Service Chairs attend the training so they can understand how to work with the moderators and forum directors.

Time and location will be announced next month.

For more information, contact Roberta Hollimon, lwvcseditor@comcast.net.

Board Briefs

The board did not meet in December. This column will resume next month.

Member News

Thank your for renewing your membership: Mary Boyle

Community Appeal

Thank you for making a donation to the Community Appeal: Jackie Hall.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

This issue of the VOTER is full of ways you can become active in the League.

- **Studies and Action**
 - p.1 Program Planning
- **Elections**
 - p. 1 Voter Service
 - p. 2 Moderator Training
- **Information**
 - p. 3 Bay Area League Day
 - p. 3 Bay Delta Conservation Plan
 - p. 5 Bay Area Monitor

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

SCHEDULED FOR
DECEMBER RELEASE

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a part of California's overall water management portfolio. It is being developed as a 50 - year habitat conservation plan with the goals of restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem and securing California water supplies. The BDCP would secure California's water supply by building new water delivery infrastructure and operating the system to improve the ecological health of the Delta. The BDCP also would restore or protect approximately 145,000 acres of habitat to address the Delta's environmental challenges.

As a joint effort of state and federal agencies preparing the BDCP, the recent shutdown of the federal government and associated staff furloughs delayed the development, review, and ultimately the release of the Public Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The Public Draft BDCP and EIR/EIS are now scheduled for release on December 13, 2013 for 120 days of formal review.

During the formal public review period, which will run from December 13, 2013 to April 14, 2014, the public, agencies, and other interested parties will be able to access copies of the document online, in repositories throughout the state, and request copies for review.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Clara County is planning a forum on this important water policy document during the EIR review period. To find out more about the plan and review process check the link to the project website at <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>

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Los Altos-Mountain View VOTER,
November 2013*

2014 BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

Saturday, February 1, 2014

10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration and refreshments: 9:30 – 10:00 AM

MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space

Open space is more than just a beautiful landscape or a place to hike. Within the more than a million acres protected permanently from development in the Bay Area, a new vision of the value of open space is emerging. An Ecosystem Survey being conducted by the Santa Clara and Sonoma open space districts is developing data on the cost-benefit value of investing in nature. Connectivity between open lands allows for greater use by the public and wildlife. Some open lands are being used as a baseline to study the effects of climate change. Habitat conservation plans are being developed to enhance the provision of water supply by preserving and enhancing watersheds and improving flood protection.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Extent of lands now permanently protected and areas still at risk
- Economic value of open lands: agricultural production, tourist visitation, public health, etc.
- Role of natural areas in offsetting sea level rise
- Importance of connections and linkages between open spaces

Join us for our annual look at the nine counties of the Bay Area, and REGISTER.

REGISTRATION :

Send check payable to LWVBA by **Friday, January 24th** to:

**LWVBA,
Attn: Bay Area League Day,
1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 300,
Oakland, CA 94612**

NAME: _____ LOCAL LEAGUE: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE USING PAYPAL.

THE COST IS \$35 PREPAID (\$20 WITHOUT LUNCH) AND \$40 (\$25 WITHOUT LUNCH) AT THE DOOR. THE DEADLINE FOR PREPAID REGISTRATION WILL BE FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ALEC MACDONALD AT (510) 839-1608 OR WWW.LWVBAYAREA.ORG

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD: WILL REGIONAL PLAN PUSH PEOPLE OUT?

By Alec MacDonald

We tend to take comfort in the notion that neighborhoods are stable places, steadfastly retaining their distinctive character throughout the years. Yet in reality, they constantly undergo subtle fluctuations, and can eventually start to feel unfamiliar to us. Sometimes, the transformation involves a wave of housing renovations, streetscape improvements, and commercial enterprises — in a word, revitalization. When revitalization leads to the displacement of residents by an influx of wealthier newcomers, another word applies: gentrification.

An intensely loaded term, its mere mention can provoke impassioned reactions and spark heated arguments. Such discussions often fail to reach any productive resolution, in part because participants may have different interpretations of how exactly gentrification works. Analyzing this complex phenomenon hasn't become any easier, either, with the introduction of anti-sprawl planning strategies that can exert powerful influence on neighborhood dynamics.

Planners have increasingly sought to concentrate development within the urban core, aiming to encourage walking and transit use, reduce air pollution from cars, bolster public health, and enhance overall quality of life. However, some advocates contend this approach exacerbates gentrification displacement of lower income residents.

"You're immediately creating this kind of economic and social tension by trying to push more people into a smaller space," said Peter Cohen, co-director of the San Francisco Council of Community Housing Organizations. As a result, "we get almost a Darwinian sorting out of the haves and have-nots based upon who's able to afford rising rents, who's able to afford the latest cost of a condo, who's able to set up a new business."

Having observed this effect in the neighborhoods he serves, he predicts it "is going to be happening in the near- and mid-term future in many other places in the Bay Area as they experience pressure of growth," with San Francisco representing "the canary in the coal mine." With the region's population expected to jump from 7.2 million today to 9.3 million by 2040, that pressure looms large.

Expressing frustration about how officials have been preparing for this prospect, Cohen criticized the recently adopted Plan Bay Area for failing to protect groups at risk from gentrification displacement. Put together by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments, the plan's vision for

2040 focuses 78 percent of new housing units and 62 percent of new jobs into a relatively small proportion of land, roughly 170 pockets around the region dubbed Priority Development Areas. These sites will receive sizeable transportation investments to help them achieve the housing and jobs projections; Cohen thinks the regional agencies should more strictly control this funding by telling local jurisdictions that "you can't just take all this transportation money and do investments that are going to encourage infill development if you don't simultaneously have an effective set of stabilization policies in place so that you do no harm."

"Unfortunately that's the kind of muscle that the regional agencies were not willing at the time to use," he lamented. "So the Plan Bay Area essentially, for the most part, continues the status quo."

As in any examination of gentrification issues, evaluations naturally differ. Dan Chatman, an assistant professor of city and regional planning at UC Berkeley, asserted, "There are ways in which Plan Bay Area could be implemented that would increase the amount of housing that would otherwise have been created in the Bay Area, and that can be nothing but good for affordability of housing and thus for possible displacement pressures."

Emphasizing the concept of supply and demand, Chatman reasoned that the plan's relaxation on development constraints should result in builders producing a surplus of residential units, prompting prices to drop. In his estimation, residents are getting priced out of Bay Area real estate markets because local jurisdictions have refused to offer more options. "It's not about developers not caring about poor people," he said, "it's just about municipalities and neighbors not wanting density."

These same parties will control much of how the plan translates into action at the local level, Chatman noted, and so all the attendant questions about neighborhood transformation rest mainly in their hands. In terms of safeguarding the interests of low income populations, he pointed out that the Bay Area has a staunch network of affordable housing activists whose "voices will be heard" during the process.

Cohen confirmed that he and others like him intend to speak up as Plan Bay Area becomes real "on the ground... jurisdiction by jurisdiction by jurisdiction." Then he added, "Basically we just battle gentrification in the neighborhoods — that's kind of the way it's always been."

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LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League of Women Voters of the United States joined with the LWVs of Kansas and Arizona to file a brief on the merits in *Kobach v. EAC* in U.S. District Court. The Leagues won a bid to intervene after arguing that the decision of the states of Arizona and Kansas to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote impacts the work that the League does to register voters.

State - Campaign disclosure bills we support are expected to come up for a vote when the legislature reconvenes in January.

SB 2 (Lieu and Yee) increases transparency by requiring state candidates to “Stand by Your Ad,” as federal candidates do; toughening slate mailer disclosure; and strengthening enforcement.

SB 27 (Correa) closes the loophole that allows nonprofits to contribute huge sums in California elections without disclosure.

AB 800 (Gordon) gives the Fair Political Practices Commission important tools to investigate suspected violations.

BAY AREA MONITOR

Did you find the article on Regional Planning on page 4 informative? Would you like to read more articles like that?

For nearly 40 years, LWV Bay Area has published the Bay Area Monitor to promote awareness about critical yet frequently overlooked issues that affect this region. Focusing primarily on transportation, air quality, water, land use, open space, and various environmental concerns, the Monitor showcases replicable strategies for enhancing sustainability, conserving resources, advancing equity, increasing efficiency, and safeguarding public health across the region.

We believe the Monitor is a valuable resource, but we still meet League members who have never heard of the publication. We’d like to change that, which is why we’re reaching out to you in an effort to raise the publication’s online visibility.

Six times a year, LWV Bay Area sends e-mail announcements to online readers of the Monitor, alerting them that a new edition has been posted on www.bayareamonitor.org.

Would you like to start receiving these announcements?

If so, please visit our subscription page, enter your name and e-mail address, and click the “Subscribe” box. Your information will not be used for any other purpose, and you can opt out at any time.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us at (510) 839-1608 or editor@bayareamonitor.org.

*Marion Taylor, President
LWV Bay Area*

(If you have trouble accessing the subscription page link above, please visit www.bayareamonitor.org and click the “Subscribe” tab at the top of the page.)

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

January

Mon 6 7:30 **Board Meeting**
Burnett's
729 Stendhal Ln, Cupertino 95014

Wed 22 7 - 9 PM **Program Planning**
Burnett's
729 Stendhal Ln, Cupertino 95014

February

Sat 1 10 AM - 2:30 PM **Bay Area League Day**
A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space
MetroCenter Auditorium
101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Wed 5 7 - 9 PM **Voter Service Planning Meeting**
Quinlan Center - Conference Room
10185 N Stelling Road Cupertino 95014

Sat 8 10 AM - Noon **Moderator Training**
Location TBA

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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