



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

September 2014

Volume 42 Number 2

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TAKING STOCK OF THE WATER SUPPLY

Robin Meadows

Water. It flows out of the tap every time we want, cool, clear, and clean. We take it for granted even now, three years into one of California's driest stretches on record. But we can't go on like this for much longer — the Bay Area's water could start to run short in just two decades.



Stevens Creek Reservoir February 2014

The Bay Area's population is projected to rise about 25 percent in the next two decades, from 7 million people today to 9 million in 2035. And without preparation there won't always be enough water for us all. Our expected water demand will exceed the supply by nearly 7 percent in a dry year, and by more than 11 percent in the worst case scenario of multiple dry years.

While the future may be daunting, it isn't here yet and California cities are using almost as much water as usual despite the extreme drought. That said, the Bay Area's water use is already relatively low. About half of California's urban water goes to landscaping, and the Bay Area uses less water outdoors because much of our land is urban with a cool climate.

The San Francisco Bay Area hydrologic region, a major drainage basin that is smaller than the nine-county region, gets nearly 40 percent of its water from Sierra Nevada-fed reservoirs that are close to full. Much of the East Bay's water is from the Pardee Reservoir in the Sierra foothills, which was at 87 percent capacity in mid-July. Likewise, much of San Francisco's water is from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite, which was at 97 percent capacity in mid-July. Hetch Hetchy also supplies considerable amounts of water to Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties.

The rest of the Bay Area's water comes from local sources and government water projects. Local surface waters and groundwater account for about 30 percent of our water, and another nearly 30 percent is delivered by the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP). These projects, which funnel water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, have curtailed water deliveries sharply this year. The CVP is giving the Contra Costa Water District only half of its historic supply, and SWP allocations are down to just 5 percent of usual.

"Our water problems are solvable," said David Sedlak, co-director of the Berkeley Water Center at UC Berkeley. "We need to start planning today — we'll be lucky if our new systems are built in 20 years."

Excerpts from the Bay Area Monitor.

To read the complete article go to www.bayareamonitor.org. While there you can subscribe to the online version of the Monitor.

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers and friends,

This issue of the VOTER is full of activities. The short column "Opportunities for Involvement" got so big it had to be moved to a page of its own. If you haven't guessed, that title is a euphemism for "help wanted" and we do need your help in the next few months. There is need for help at several levels of League. Jobs range from a two hour stint at a table registering voters, joining a Bay Area League committee, to becoming a state League board member. Can you find a place where you can help? It would be much appreciated. To volunteer or for more information send me an email at president@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

Also included is an article about the Smart Voter collaboration with MapLight, notices of meetings, and a message from the president of the national League, Elisabeth MacNamara about the ratification of the amendment giving women the right to vote. The article on page 1 about water supply is just a brief excerpt from the Bay Area Monitor. Go to their website to read the complete story and consider subscribing to the Monitor.

Roberta

GET 'SMART' ABOUT FALL BALLOT MEASURES - SEPT. 14 PROGRAM

Confused about the November 2014 state ballot measures? Want more information on what and who are behind those ballot measures?

Then League members will want to save the date for a program on Sunday, September 14 at 1:30 pm at the Dr. Martin Luther King Public Library, 150 E. San Fernando Street, in downtown San Jose.

Helen Hutchison, state president of the League of Women Voters of California, will discuss each of the State propositions and provide some insights into the "pros" and "cons" of each measure. The program is free and open to the public -- but is especially relevant for League members. Get updated on the measures! Help your friends and neighbors better understand the issues.

In addition, Helen will also discuss the League's policy positions, how and why the League takes positions, and the process the League uses in applying its positions to take action on ballot measures.

BALLOT MEASURE PROS AND CONS COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Pros and Cons presentations open to the public will be held at the following churches: St. Thomas Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist, Sunnyvale Presbyterian, and at the Sunnyvale Library, Cupertino Library and the Democratic Club of Sunnyvale. See the October VOTER for dates, times, locations.

Board Briefs

At its August meeting your board:

- Learned that scheduling of Pros and Cons presentations has begun.
- Heard the plan for alerting members that the membership renewal schedule has changed.
- Set October 16 as the date for the Cupertino City Council candidate forum.
- Agreed to explore participation in the Cupertino Library anniversary celebration.
- Approved having a LWVCS table at the Sunnyvale Library for National Voter Registration Day, September 23.
- Approved using the Ed Fund to pay the maximum allowed portion of the Per-Member-Payment bills.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS CHANGING

In order to simplify and make more efficient our membership renewal process, we are changing from renewing members on their anniversary month to having everyone renew in September. At Annual meeting we changed the Bylaws to allow this change.

Soon you will receive your member renewal letter which explains the new process. Some of you may wonder why you haven't received a renewal request yet, others will wonder why you are being asked to renew so early. This is how we are shifting over to the new system. Next year it will be very easy for everyone.

COMMUNITY APPEAL

Thanks to Patricia Dentinger for your contribution to the Community Appeal

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Local

There is a need for volunteers at activities at both the Cupertino Library and the Sunnyvale Library.

The Cupertino Library is holding a celebration of the 10th anniversary in its new home and the 100th anniversary of the County Library System on Saturday, October 18. Tables will be designated with Dewey Decimal System Numbers Help us staff a table under the Dewey decimal system number 300 which is Government.

The League will collaborate with the Sunnyvale Library on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 23. Plan to staff a table for two hours and register voters. It is a very satisfying endeavor.

We are still looking for people interested in a tour of Levi's Stadium, new home of the 49ers. We need more people interested in the tour and someone to be in charge.

As election season approaches, or for some of us it is already here, we need volunteers to help the speakers at the Pros and Cons presentations, assist at Candidate Forums, and serve on a Voter Service Committee.

Think about helping to fulfill the League's mission, *to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy*, by serving in one of these positions.

To volunteer for any of these activities, email president@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

LWV Bay Area

The Bay Area League has several committees that deal with regional issues. We know that water and air do

not stop at city or county boundaries. Nor is transportation solely a local issue. Climate Change is a global concern. If you are interested in one of these areas, consider joining a Bay Area Committee.

* Natural Resource/Water/Air

Committee: Meets monthly at LWVBA office, or by teleconference. Next meeting will be Monday, August 12. Contact Meg Giberson, amgibr-lwv@yahoo.com

* Transportation Committee:

Communicates on-line and meets in person as needed. Contact: Alex Starr, apstarr@ix.netcom.com

* Climate Change Network: A new on-line network, at both regional and national levels. Let us know of local League members interested in Climate Change issues, such as Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Sea-Level Rise, and legislation. Contact: Janice Blumenkrantz, jan22gb@gmail.com, and visit their new website at <http://www.lwvbae.org/climate-change-network/> and join the group.

State

There is a volunteer opportunity at the state level with League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and LWVC Education Fund (LWVCEF). Due to professional and personal demands on her time, our Treasurer, Eleanor Gonzalez, is having to resign before her term is over. We're looking for candidates interested in serving as her interim replacement, to finish out her term through 6/30/2015. Read about the LWVC/EF Treasurer

SMART VOTER NEXTGEN UPDATE

opportunity: <http://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities/lwvc-interim-treasurer>.

As many of you already know, Smart Voter and MapLight have teamed up to bring California a new comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections called Voter's Edge. The Voter's Edge pilot, designed for California's June primary and November elections, is a partnership approach to accelerating Smart Voter's NextGen vision. It is intended to set Smart Voter on a course to modernize, leverage its unique value, increase its impact, and expand its mission to engage and educate voters with nonpartisan information.

The partnership marries Smart Voter's powerful coverage of election contests and candidates with MapLight's deep expertise in public data and technology. The site will feature the Smart Voter name and LWVCEF color scheme along with MapLight's logo and will provide:

- An address lookup tool to build individualized ballots and provide the voter's polling place
- Candidate and ballot measure data down to the local level supplied by Smart Voter;
- Federal, state and campaign finance data supplied by MapLight.

Development delays, caused by technological complexities, made it unfeasible to redirect voters from Smart Voter to the new Voter's Edge in June. Progress has continued through July, and developers on the Smart Voter and Voter's Edge teams are working to resolve various issues. The current plan is to have a single, fully-integrated and co-branded site available to voters for the November election.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Institute for Age-Friendly Housing

DESIGN CHALLENGE: AGING-IN-PLACE, SILICON VALLEY

September 30, 2014

9:30 to 5:00

The Quinlan Center, Cupertino, CA

Featured Speakers Include:

Michael Fox, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries of Silicon Valley

Annie Valdes, Senior Design Strategist, IDEO

Katy Fike, Co-Founder, Aging 2.0

Sheri Peifer, Director of Innovation, Eskaton

James Ramoni, Director, Santa Clara County Department on Aging and Adult Services

Complete Agenda & More Info: Institute of Age-Friendly Housing

\$75 Early Bird Registration

The Positive Aging Forum is Presented by the Institute for Age-Friendly Housing
Produced by Age2Age

Hosted by Cupertino Quota and City of Cupertino

Our Partners & Sponsors include:
Silver Sponsor: Goodwill of Silicon Valley
Stanford Center on Longevity
IDEO
Aging2.0
Santa Clara County Senior Agenda

IDEO Co-Creating Design Process

IDEO, the globally recognized design firm, has partnered with the Institute for Age-Friendly Housing to co-create this day that will be unlike any conference you have attended. Instead of listening, learning and leaving, you will be collaborating to create solutions for Aging-In-Place in the silicon Valley.

FORUM: THE FUTURE OF EL CAMINO REAL LIES IS IN YOUR HANDS

Increasing traffic congestion and slow transit. Unsafe and uninviting conditions for walking and bicycling. Rapidly escalating housing costs. These are some of the challenges facing El Camino Real today, but land use and transportation plans are under way in cities such as Sunnyvale that will affect traffic and transportation, community health and quality of life, and business and employment. Important decisions will be made in the coming months and you have an opportunity to voice your perspective. Come join a discussion about the future of El Camino Real!

Speakers:

Andy Miner, Principal Planner, City of Sunnyvale
Ria H Lo, Principal, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates
Mark Balestra, Owner, Sunnyvale Pearson Buick-GMC;
Sunnyvale Auto Dealers Association
Michael Alba, Global Transportation Program Manager,
LinkedIn

Moderator:

Bruce Paton, Faculty Director, Graduate Programs,
College of Business, San Francisco State University

When and Where:

Thursday, September 11, 2014, 6-8 PM
Sunnyvale Heritage Museum
570 E Remington Dr, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Co-Sponsors:

- Friends of Caltrain
- Greenbelt Alliance
- LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale
- Nelson\Nygaard
- Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Sunnyvale Community Services
- Sunnyvale Cool
- Transform

Free event. Snacks and refreshments provided.

For more information and to register, visit:

<http://www.transformca.org/events/future-el-camino-real-lies-your-hands>

LEAGUE NEWS

National – In September, the United Nations will gather for a summit on the climate crisis where leaders around the world will make commitments to fight climate change. Organizations from across the country are mobilizing to show support for the fight against climate change with a March and demonstration in New York City surrounding the summit. The League will be joining them for the People's Climate March on September 21. For additional information and to get involved, visit peoplesclimate.org.

State - LWVC recommends: YES on Prop 2, strengthens the state Rainy Day Fund process. YES on Prop 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act It is reviewing Prop 1 the new water bond. *(More in next month's VOTER)*

Bay Area - A statement was made to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Climate Protection Committee on July 17, 2014 in support of their efforts to develop a Regional Climate Action Strategy.

WOMEN GET THE VOTE

Elisabeth MacNamara, President League of Women Voters

Next week will mark the 94 anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. With that ratification the work of the newly formed League of Women Voters, founded to finish the fight for suffrage, really began. An estimated 25 million women were, with the stroke of a pen, eligible to vote. The task of registering and informing those new women voters was enormous. Add to that the understandable desire of those who had worked so long and hard for woman suffrage to make a difference with their votes.

It is tempting to look back on those early days of the League for inspiration, especially as we look forward to a federal midterm election where much is at stake but where too often voter enthusiasm is low. While it may be challenging, I am inspired by the fact that so many Leagues and members are already out in their communities registering and educating voters.. I also found that inspiration in the following passage from a convention speech by our first president Maude Wood Park referring to interests hostile to the mission of the League:

"By far the most serious of our opponents is the colossal inertia of large numbers of persons. If this nation ever faces final disaster, it will be because what 'is everybody's business is nobody's business except the self-seekers." We need to rewrite that old adage...In this respect ours is a stupendous undertaking, for inertia is a thoroughly uninteresting opponent. Thrills do not come easily in a struggle against sheer dead weight, but that weight must be moved if we are to succeed...If we have the courage to try, we do not need genius or even extraordinary qualities in order to succeed. All that we shall require is steadfast faith in democracy, common sense and persistence...if we have all three - and keep them together - we are invincible."

All these years later, the League has had those qualities and kept them together and we have been and will continue to be invincible.

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

September

Mon	8	7:30 PM	Board Meeting Burnett's 729 Stendahl Ln, Cupertino
Sun	14	1:30 PM	Pros and Cons Presentation MLK Public Library 150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose
Tues	23		Voter Registration Sunnyvale Library 665 W Olive Ave, Sunnyvale
Tue	30	9:30 AM	Aging-In-Place: Silicon Valley Quinlan Center 10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino
Thur	11	6:00 PM	Future of El Camino Real Sunnyvale Heritage Museum 570 E Remington Dr, Sunnyvale

October

Thur	16	7:00 PM	Candidate Forum - Cupertino City Council Cupertino Community Hall 10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino
Sat	18		Cupertino Library Celebration TBA

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

President Barack Obama comments@whitehouse.gov	202-456-1414
Senator Barbara Boxer senator@boxer.senate.gov	415-403-0100
Senator Dianne Feinstein senator@feinstein.senate.gov	415-393-0707
Rep. Mike Honda mike.honda@mail.house.gov	408-436-2720

CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown governor@governor.ca.gov	916-445-2841
Senator Jim Beall senator.beall@senate.ca.gov	408-286-8318
Senator Jerry Hill senator.hill@senate.ca.gov	650-212-3313
Assemblyman Paul Fong assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov	408-371-2802
Assemblyman Rich Gordon assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov	650-691-2121

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Dave Cortese dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org	408-299-5030
Supervisor Joe Simitian joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org	408-299-5050

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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.

League of Women Voters
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FIRST CLASS