



# VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2015

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### HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday • December 5, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. - noon**

**Elaine and Scott Manleys**

**1075 Hamshire Ct**

**Sunnyvale 94087**

Join other League members for some good food and informed and lively discussion. Come alone or bring your spouse, children, friends, and neighbors. In addition to just socializing we will be going over all the Voter Service activities in 2016: Registering people to vote, Community Workshops, Pros and Cons, and Candidate Forums

**RSVP [president@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:president@cs.ca.lwvnet.org)**

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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### The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

This newsletter is posted on our website: [cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

Editor: Roberta Hollimon  
[lwvcseditor@comcast.net](mailto:lwvcseditor@comcast.net)

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### SAVE THE DATES

#### Money In Politics

Saturday, January 23

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

Coleman Room 702

728 W Fremont Ave Sunnyvale 94087

#### Program Planning

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Time and place TBA



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This month we invite you to attend the Holiday Party. It’s a chance to greet friends you haven’t seen in a long time. In addition to socializing you’ll learn about our Voter Service activities for the coming year.

Read the article on page three about clean energy. This program may be coming to our cities soon. Become more informed by attending one of the community meetings listed in the article.

The County Council of the five Leagues in Santa Clara County has a Juvenile Justice committee that follows Juvenile Justice issues in the county. They organized a very informative public forum on Juvenile Justice held in October. Thanks to Julie Cates, LWV Los Altos Mt. View, you’ll find a report on the forum on page six.

We have Linda Davis to thank for organizing the “Sunnyvale Group” that is following development issues in Sunnyvale and reporting on them on the Sunnyvale page in each VOTER. This six-member group is currently working on plans for a public meeting next Spring, as well as continuing to build the knowledge base needed for our local League to have a robust presence in Sunnyvale.

I was happy to see more than 40 people, both members and the public, attend the Money In Politics (MIP) meeting held at the Sunnyvale library. The excellent program was prepared and presented by Linda Davis and Susan Hough with a number of others in supporting roles. This presentation provides good background for our MIP consensus meeting to be held in January. If you missed the meeting, not to worry, as you’ll be able to read it on your own time. Watch for the MIP email detailed below. Our League’s Campaign Finance study committee has been reading Chapter I of “The Soft Money” mentioned below in preparation for the consensus meetings. I found it so interesting and informative that I want to read the rest of the book. That will have to wait until I finish this VOTER.

I want to encourage people to read this VOTER carefully to get a fuller appreciation of all that is going on in the League in our communities and beyond.

*Roberta*

### Board Briefs

At its November meeting your board:

- Approved the Constitutional Amendment Consensus to be sent to LWVUS
- Heard from the treasurer that all government reports have been filed.
- Set January 23 as the date for our “Money in Politics” Consensus Meeting.
- Received a report on activities of the LWV Santa Clara County Council.

### Member News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Barbara Rogers.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Andrea Harris, Andrew Kao, and William Wilson.

### Opportunities for Involvement

- Attend the the Holiday Party. See page 1 for details.
- Mark your calendar for the “Money in Politics” consensus meeting in January.
- Attend one of the Clean Energy meetings listed on page 4.

## SPECIAL EMAIL ON MONEY IN POLITICS

LWVCS members will be receiving a special email in late November on the topic of Money in Politics. That email will include links to materials intended to prepare members for our January consensus discussion on campaign finance:

- Our 11/9 “Money in Politics” presentation, formatted for reading.
- The consensus discussion questions, with links to suggested articles.

There will also be another document with links to lots of resources on campaign finance.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNNYVALE

**Town Center** –The current owner, Wells Fargo, has announced plans to sell the partially completed Town Center project to a new joint venture involving an institutional investor advised by J.P. Morgan Asset Management and two local developers, Sares Regis Group and Hunter Properties. Hunter is based in Cupertino and focuses on retail. Sares is based in San Mateo and has developed many luxury residential projects. This news comes a little over three months after years of litigation ended, allowing this stalled project to move forward. The City must now vet the proposed development team before the sale can proceed. The City's evaluation will consider factors such as development experience, financial capacity, and reputation. The City Council is currently scheduled to review findings with staff and consultants on December 10, starting at 9 am. Although some of this meeting will be in closed session, part of the proceedings will be open to the public. If you'd like to attend to hear more about the proposed development team, please watch the City's [tentative meeting calendar](#) for details and possible changes. For a history of the Town Center, visit [Downtown.inSunnyvale.com](#). For more details on the recent news, see this [11/19/article](#) in the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

**Civic Center** –At a Council study session on 11/17, city staff presented eight different layouts for the civic center area, with opportunities and constraints for each one. Council members and a few residents gave feedback on the options. You can [download the 11/17 presentation](#) to examine the various layouts. The next step is to narrow down the scenarios to about three and estimate the costs for each one. That information will be brought back to the Council at its meeting on 12/15, along with starter proposals on how to fund the modernization of the civic center. Staff will also seek budget approval to start polling as early as December, to determine how large a bond voters are likely to support for work on the civic center.

**El Camino Real Corridor Plan** –The public is invited to attend an information meeting of the El Camino Real Corridor Plan Advisory Committee on Thursday, 12/3. (See the box for time and location.) The American Institute of Architects will provide an overview of architectural and community design terms and concepts at this meeting. For more information on this new planning effort, visit [PlanElCaminoReal.inSunnyvale.com](#).

### Upcoming Meetings

*Agendas, meeting packets, audio/video: [meetings.inSunnyvale.com](#)\*  
Location: City Hall Council chambers, unless otherwise noted.  
TV channel 15: live broadcast of many meetings.*

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 12/3 • 7 pm     | <b>El Camino Real Corridor Plan</b><br>Overview of new plan getting underway<br>Sunnyvale Senior Center, Laurel Room<br>550 E Remington Dr   |
| 12/9 • 7 pm     | <b>Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy</b><br>Sunnyvale Community Center<br>Community Room • 550 E Remington<br>If you cannot attend this overview meeting,<br>visit these excellent online resources:<br><a href="#">video</a> • <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> • <a href="#">FAQs</a> |
| 12/10 • 9 am    | <b>Proposed Town Center Development Team</b><br>Council special session  |
| 12/10 • 6:30 pm | <b>Wolfe Rd Traffic Improvement Study</b><br>Community Center, Neighborhood Room   |
| 12/15 • 7 pm    | <b>City Council Meeting</b><br>Civic Center – layout and financing options<br>Community Choice Energy – decision to join   |

\* Changes occur often, so double-check meetings at [this link](#).

**Transportation Funding**–The Valley Transportation Authority is considering a 2016 county transportation sales tax measure. You can read more at [www.envisionSV.org](#), and contribute toward VTA's planning efforts by completing two online surveys: [rank your transportation priorities](#) and [choose revenue and spending options](#).

**LWVCS Sunnyvale Development Group** – If you'd like us to cover certain topics in this monthly column or you have other input that might inform our work, please write us: [SunnyvaleGroup@cs.ca.lwvnet.org](mailto:SunnyvaleGroup@cs.ca.lwvnet.org).

### Stay informed and make your voice heard

- Read the bi-weekly [City Manager's Blog](#)
- Give input via [City surveys](#) on current topics
- Sign up for City [email meeting notices](#)
- Sign up for other City [email announcements](#)
- Read articles on local issues in [The Sun](#)
- Read this column in [past issues of the VOTER](#)



# SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

The Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy Partnership (SVCCE) has completed a technical feasibility study that concludes it can provide cleaner, greener electricity at competitive rates for participating residents and businesses.

SVCCE is a partnership sponsored by the Cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino and Mountain View, and the County of Santa Clara (unincorporated County areas) that produced an initial study of Community Choice Energy (CCE) for Silicon Valley.

Eight other communities in Santa Clara County have also come forward to participate in the study, these include Campbell, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Gilroy, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga. With the study in progress, the Partnership is hosting a series of meetings throughout the County to educate the communities on what CCE programs are and to solicit feedback and interest.

CCE was created by state law, AB 117 (2002) and amended by SB 790 (2011). Communities choosing to participate can form a Joint Public Agency to pool the electricity demand of residents and businesses and buy power on their behalf with their interests in mind.

SVCCE would buy electricity and transmit it over PG&E lines to customers. PG&E would do the billing. The initial study answers several key questions including risks and benefits of launching SVCCE and explores which other communities would participate in SVCCE. Based on this initial effort, the sponsoring agencies decided to proceed with a full technical study that will dive deeper into the energy needs of our communities and explore potential rates for a local CCE.

SVCCE is an opportunity to change the electricity market and provide residents and businesses with a new

choice. This new electricity provider would be entirely locally run. It's similar to buying in bulk or participating in a co-op. The agency would buy power on the open market, encouraging the kind of competition that can result in more renewable energy sources at lower rates.

When a community decides to create or join a CCE, all customers within that jurisdiction are automatically enrolled in the CCE. However, customers can choose to opt-out and remain with or go back to PG&E. In existing programs, 80-90% of customers have chosen to stay with the new local agency as their electricity provider, opting for the cleaner, greener, local choice. Based on the technical study results, all participating communities will decide whether to form a CCE program.

Under SVCCE, PG&E would continue to provide essential services as a partner, delivering the electricity over existing infrastructure, maintaining the power lines, sending bills, and providing customer service. Your bill would even look the same.

SVCCE is hosting community meetings to discuss:

- how best to balance electricity costs with increased levels of renewable power and decreased greenhouse gas emissions
- how to incorporate consumer-owned solar into the energy mix
- residents' role in helping our communities reduce their carbon footprints.

For more information visit [SVCleanEnergy.org](http://SVCleanEnergy.org). There you will learn more about the benefits of CCE, how it helps meet green house gas reduction goals, frequently asked questions, and a 5 minute video about the program.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### Cupertino

Monday November 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m  
Cupertino Senior Center  
21251 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino 95014

### Sunnyvale

Tuesday December 5 at 7:00 p.m.  
Sunnyvale Community Center  
Community Room  
550 E Remington Dr Sunnyvale 94086

The **Sunnyvale City Council** will take action needed to launch the Community Choice Energy program at its meeting:

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
456 W Olive Ave Sunnyvale 94086.

# TACKLING THE TWIN TUNNELS, AGAIN

By Robin Meadows - Bay Area Monitor

Here we go again. Just last year, we were invited to have our say on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the state's failed proposal to pipe water under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Now the twin tunnels are back with a new name — California WaterFix — and the key difference of no longer being linked to extensive habitat restoration. Permits are up to federal and state wildlife agencies, and funding is up to the water users, who are mostly Central Valley farmers and Southern California water agencies. We have until October 30 to get our comments in.

About half of California's freshwater flows through the Delta, which has been heading for trouble since people diked its many islands for agriculture about 150 years ago. Today those levees are crumbling and, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office, breaks big enough to threaten water supplies are likely. The Delta supplies about 13 percent of the state's water and 43 percent of the Bay Area's water.

The Delta is also a major thoroughfare for California's salmon. Two-thirds of them migrate through the Delta, and several salmon runs are threatened or endangered. Other at-risk fish include the famous Delta smelt, the less-known longfin smelt, and the green sturgeon. What these fish have in common, aside from the misfortune of their deteriorating ecosystem, is that they live in salty water as adults but migrate back to freshwater to spawn. And this is part of their undoing in today's Delta.

At the southern tip of the Delta, two sets of pumps drain water into state and federal water projects, respectively. Sucking water south through the Delta disturbs the natural east-west flow of water between the rivers and the sea. "The south Delta is more like a lake," said UC Davis fish biologist Peter Moyle, explaining that migratory fish navigate by tidal currents. "It's confusing to the fish, they don't know where to go." Another problem is that the pumps crush fish.

The proposed tunnels could help solve both problems. About 30 miles long, 40 feet across, and up to 150 feet underground, the tunnels would carry water from the northern tip of the Delta to the pumps in the south. "Moving water directly to the pumps could be less

confusing to the fish," Moyle said. "That's the theory, anyway."

The tunnel intakes would be like three gigantic mouths on the Sacramento River, each capable of gulping up to 22,000 gallons per second. While the plan also calls for screens designed to protect fish, the intakes could still be risky for fish. So the project can't go forward without "incidental take" permits for endangered fish from wildlife agencies; these permits allow harm to listed species or their habitat in exchange for habitat conservation. And permitting the BDCP's vision for the tunnels looked unlikely, in part given the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 30 pages of "red flag" comments.

BDCP was a 50-year plan that bundled the tunnels with large-scale restoration to meet the 2009 Delta Reform Act's goals of water reliability and ecosystem restoration. According to the state, combining the two projects was a major holdup to permitting the tunnels. Wildlife biologists thought the long-term impact on endangered species was too uncertain, and doubted that the BDCP could deliver the extensive

habitat restoration it promised.

Now the state has split BDCP into California WaterFix and California EcoRestore. This means the tunnels are no longer linked to a 50-year permit and large-scale restoration. The new plan does include up to 15,600 acres of habitat restoration and protection, but this is only about a tenth of what BDCP promised. But while separating BDCP into two parts may facilitate permitting the tunnels, critics are as vocal as ever.

We can't vote on the latest incarnation of the twin tunnels, but we can make our voices heard. You can learn more about California WaterFix at [www.californiawaterfix.com](http://www.californiawaterfix.com) and can send comments to [BDCPComments@icfi.com](mailto:BDCPComments@icfi.com) or BDCP/California WaterFix Comments, P.O. Box 1919, Sacramento, CA 95812.

To read the entire article and see a map of the Twin Tunnel Route, go to <http://bayareamonitor.org>

*Reprinted with permission from the Bay Area Monitor, October/November 2015*

## Delta Water Exports

- Pumps in the south Delta supply 16 percent of the Bay Area's water, and direct diversions from the Delta supply up to another 27 percent.
- The Delta supplies more than 40 percent of the water for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, more than 75 percent for the Contra Costa Water District, 27 percent for the Alameda County Water District, 39 percent for the City of Napa, 13 percent for the Solano County Water Agency, and more than 80 percent for Zone 7 Water Agency.
- Delta exports average 1.66 trillion gallons per year, and peaked at about 2.14 trillion gallons in 2011, or most recent wet year. Under California WaterFix, Delta exports would average 1.6 trillion gallons per year.

## LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOSTS JUVENILE JUSTICE PUBLIC FORUM



From left, Gloria Chun Hoo, Chris Arriola, Patrick Tondreau, Elisa Carias

The County Council of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County held a forum on Juvenile Justice featuring Keynote Speaker the Honorable Patrick Tondreau, Supervising Judge, Juvenile Division, Santa Clara County Superior Court; with Chris Arriola, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara County; and Elisa Carias, Supervising Probation Officer Juvenile Division, Santa Clara County. The forum was moderated by Gloria Chun Hoo, Chair of the County Council.

Santa Clara County's Juvenile Justice System is viewed as being successful at meeting the needs and challenges of the youth and families within its system and for youth in the county. Headed by the Honorable Patrick Tondreau, the speakers discussed the collaborative, cooperative steps to meet the challenges of our youth including youth trafficking, particularly at large public events. This forum's topic is very timely as our county welcomes SuperBowl 50 to be played February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara.

Over the last decade, Santa Clara County has instituted cross-system collaboration between its Juvenile Justice, Probation and child welfare systems. The agencies serving at-risk youth follow evidence based practices toward the goal of creating a safer community with increased support for at-risk youth. Santa Clara County is one of only a dozen California counties that can boast this level of cross-system coordination. This has led to a large reduction in juvenile arrests: the [Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate](#) in 1998 was 21 arrests per 1000 youth, while by 2014 it was down to 7 arrests per 1000 youth – at one-third the 1998 level.

Over the last several years further collaborative efforts have reduced the number of youth processed by the Juvenile Justice System. Whereas in 2009 there were 13,000 arrests and 3000 petitions filed,

2015 to date has had 5000 arrests and 1500 petitions. Over the last 5-6 years, average daily attendance at Juvenile Hall has decreased from 305 to 106 youth today at the Hall. These declines are results of the cross department collaboration and training put in place during the past several years.

### **Ways League and community members can help support at-risk youth.**

- Become more knowledgeable about the Juvenile Justice System, and let local politicians know what you feel is working. Contact Judge Tondreau to arrange a visit to the Juvenile Justice Court. Attend a Juvenile Justice Commission meeting which takes place the first Tuesday of the month at the Crime Lab at noon.
- A positive adult mentor can have great influence on an at-risk youth's life. Volunteer to become a mentor for an at-risk youth. You can volunteer through the CAFA program to help a foster youth or through the Boys and Girls Club, and Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY.)
- Help raise money for the organizations that have mentor programs.
- Volunteer with the South Bay Human Trafficking Commission's "[No Traffic Ahead](#)" campaign. You can sign up on the No Traffic Ahead website before, during and after the Super Bowl game.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** – The League has been working from several fronts to stop resolutions of disapproval in the U.S. House and Senate that would block the Clean Power Plan. LWVUS joined a letter from environmental groups that went to the Senate on the eve of votes taken on the resolution. Legislation in the Senate passed on November 17 and it now moves to the U.S. House.

**State** - The League of Women Voters of California has submitted comments on the Administration's plan to build twin tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta--the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix. We conclude that the environmental impact report/statement "fails not only to meet the League's criteria for supporting new conveyance infrastructure in the Delta but also to conform to established law. We therefore cannot support the Administration's California WaterFix."

## BENDING OVER BACKWARDS IN KANSAS

Talk about adding insult to injury.

A state senator defending Kansas' outrageous proof-of-citizenship voter registration requirement claims it's out of "kindness" that his state is "bending over backwards" to help people register to vote.

Here's what's really going on:

First, a restrictive law in Kansas, championed by their Secretary of State, requires voters to present a birth certificate or other proof-of-citizenship when registering to vote.

But because most people don't carry that type of documentation around with them, tens of thousands of voters, mostly young people, who have attempted to register to vote have had their applications "suspended" until they could present proof-of-citizenship.

Then, last month, Kansas' Secretary of State ordered county election officials to begin purging all suspended applications more than 90 days old—forcing tens of thousands of potential voters off the rolls without enough time to provide the needed proof-of-citizenship. What's worse is that many people who are purged won't even know it until they show up to vote on Election Day!

In other words, the elected official charged with ensuring fair and free elections in Kansas is "bending over backwards"—to make voting MORE difficult for citizens.

It is a profoundly outrageous action.

And it's something the League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVKS) refuses to accept. The League immediately launched an emergency initiative to reach all affected voters and help them complete their applications before they're purged from the rolls.



Sincerely,

Wylecia Wiggs Harris  
Executive Director LWVUS

## 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 "LWVC Education Fund."

## CALENDAR

### December

Sat 5 10 a.m. - Noon

**Holiday Party**  
Manleys  
1075 Hamshire Ct  
Sunnyvale 94087

Mon 14 7:30 p.m.

**Board Meeting**  
Hollimons  
11155 La Paloma Drive  
Cupertino 95014

### January

Sat 23 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Money In Politics**  
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church  
Coleman Rm 702  
728 W Fremont Ave  
Sunnyvale 94087

## WHO REPRESENTS YOU

### UNITED STATES

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**Assemblyman Rich Gordon** 650-691-2121  
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### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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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.

FIRST CLASS

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P.O. Box 2923  
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