



THE BEACH CITIES VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach

Keeping the Lights On In California - Perspectives from the Energy Conference



Sometimes the League experience overwhelms us with opportunities. I almost missed out on a golden opportunity by deciding that I didn't have time to spend Friday, January 21 in downtown Los Angeles attending the Energy Conference co-sponsored by the LWVC with the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission and Town Hall of

Los Angeles. This, even though the topic was right up my alley as a former employee of an energy utility!

Fortunately, at the last minute I changed my mind. Fortunately, because I would have missed the chance to hear high-level representatives of every one of the stakeholders in the power game--public and private power producers, the Independent System Operator, a major operator of renewable energy sources (Calpine), regulatory agencies, and consumer advocates--speak candidly about the past and outline challenges we must face to "keep the lights on."

Many thought the most informative speaker of the day was the first, Robert Therkelsen, Executive Director of the California Energy Commission, who gave a clear and comprehensive slide-show overview of California's electricity system and operations. His talk is very nicely summarized in the February LWV/Los Angeles County Voter, online at <http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>.

Other speakers provided contrasting perspectives on what went wrong in the summer of 2000 and how a similar catastrophe is to be avoided if, as some predict, we face power shortages as soon as this summer, due to increasing demand and aging transmission systems. Here are some highlights:

- Utility speakers emphasized the need for long-term fixed-price contracts to keep prices down.

In the '90s, as deregulation began to happen, the utilities were reluctant to enter into such contracts because they didn't know whom they would still be serving and should power up for once customers had the chance to shop elsewhere. When utility services (generation, transmission, distribution) were "unbundled" and made available for purchase by unregulated entities, utilities sold the aging generation plants they had kept in reserve to meet peak demand periods. Then, in the summer of 2000 when demand peaked and the private operators reported that the generators were "down for repairs," the utilities had to shop for power in an inflated "spot market." Today, with long-term contracts in place, they are less susceptible to opportunistic price-gouging in a crisis, but the new challenge is to replace aging transmission lines to prevent interruptions in service.

- The speaker from the California Independent System Operator, the entity with accountability for providing wholesale power to distributing utilities at reasonable prices, said that recent new peaks in demand plus aging transmission systems add up to the possibility of new crises. A half billion dollars in maintenance expenditures will be needed

(Continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

President's Letter-	Page 2
Upcoming Local Events-	Page 3
Town Hall on Foster Care-	Page 4
Volunteer Help Wanted Ads-	Page 5
Non-event and other Thank Yous! -	Page 6
Membership News-	Page 7
Calendar of Events-	Page 8

Co-President's Message, by Henrietta E. Mosley

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens - both men and women - of voting age. The League's mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government . The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.

Beach Voter

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We owe a huge bouquet of appreciation to Harriet Chase and her Education Committee who labored long and hard to guide us through the update of the State Education Position. This has been one of the most demanding studies the League has attempted for some time - a complicated and thorny topic requiring extra time, resources and creativity. From bringing us Mary Perry of EdSource to star at our well-attended kickoff last fall, to mastering and presenting material that required three membership meetings to reach consensus, Harriet's committee has done an amazing job!

If only there had been a larger audience! If only we could find a way to get our members, and the community at large, out to our meetings! The challenge is part of the larger one of broadening the pool of active members who keep the League alive as a vital force in our community.

We are deeply grateful, also, to all those who sent in their contributions during the annual "non-event" this past month. We were greatly heartened by your show of support. We hope it means you think we are doing something worthwhile that merits your investment in our efforts.

As I write this message I am anticipating a special meeting of the Board this Saturday to discuss "The Future of Our League." We are not calling this meeting because we are in imminent danger of collapse - not with 117 members, adequate treasury funds to support current activities and even a sum in reserve that could be applied to the right special project. We are meeting because we are acutely aware that those of us who devote our energies to the Beach Cities League on an ongoing basis are for the most part the same people who have done so for decades past. We need to bring along others who will find as much satisfaction in the League as we do.

Recently I read about a literary circle in Quincy, Illinois that has existed since 1866. It may be the oldest book club in the nation! It was one of many women's clubs formed in the era after the Civil War by women who rarely had had the chance for higher education but still demanded an opportunity to improve their minds and, ultimately, their world. As the article somewhat patronizingly described them, the women's clubs were "serious organizations with agendas of 'social good' and 'mental stimulation.'" "

Although members of the Quincy-based book group are no longer likely to devote two winters to reading Plato, as they once did, they still delve into very serious subjects, require their members to write lengthy research papers and sit through their meetings without the solace of a single cookie. Obviously, we in the League are more evolved, since we always have refreshments and have long since ceased to be a "women's club."

This spring we hope to attract greater attendance at our meetings with topics of community interest (Plaza El Segundo this month, Foster Care in March) and by offering stimulating outside speakers and changes of venue. But we need fresh ideas, not only from the Board but also from the rest of you. What should we be doing? What would bring you out to a meeting - a different time, place, format? How can we recruit your help with discrete tasks that don't require a full-time commitment? What tasks might be fun? Have we failed to invite you along on experiences you would have enjoyed sharing? Where should we look for our future leaders?

Please send comments and suggestions to Wendy@beachvoter.org and/or Henrietta@beachvoter.org.

- Henrietta

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

The Proposed Plaza El Segundo Project - a discussion of the Pros & Cons of this commercial site

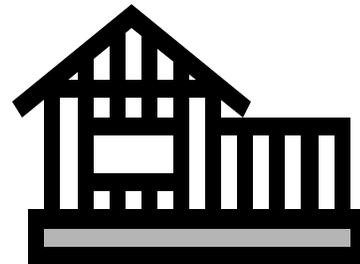
The Plaza El Segundo retail development project proposed for the northeast corner of Rosecrans and Sepulveda is moving forward through the approval process. **The February 28th membership meeting from 7- 8:45 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library** will feature a presentation from Bill Mason, a member of our League, who is a spokesman for the developer, Mar Ventures Inc. He will describe the project and discuss the measures Mar Ventures has agreed to take to help mitigate the project's impact. We will also hear from Mark Butala of the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Compass Project who will address the need for coordination between land use and transportation. The information he will present will apply specifically to our area - the South Bay region. We are also planning to have a local traffic specialist to discuss with us the traffic solutions being proposed for the region.

Since the January Voter where this project was discussed, the following governmental actions have occurred. On February 1 the Manhattan Beach City Council approved an agreement with the developer to reduce the number of project related vehicle trips by 15%. Mar Ventures has agreed to eliminate the big box store, will reduce the size of the electronic superstore, and has decreased the number of restaurants, especially fast food restaurants. The developer has also agreed to construct additional intersection improvements along Rosecrans Avenue. Specific information about the Manhattan Beach /

developer agreement is available on the City of Manhattan Beach website (www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us) and copies will be made available at our membership meeting.

The El Segundo City Council will consider the approval of this project at their meeting on February 15. The El Segundo Planning Commission approved the project in December and asked the city planning staff to look into the feasibility of having the developer provide a shuttle service to help reduce vehicle trips. However, the planning staff is not recommending a shuttle service in their report to the Council because they don't believe it would be used at times when the traffic is a problem on Sepulveda. Information about the El Segundo City Council actions related to this development will also be discussed at our meeting.

Join us for this interesting and informative membership meeting on land use and transportation. This should be a lively presentation and discussion!



To read more information about this development project visit these websites:

<http://www.elsegundo.org/business/developments/plazaelsegundo.php>

<http://www.plazaelsegundo.com/>

<http://www.marventures.com/home.html>

Network with Other Leagues! Hear An Informative Speaker!

The 43rd League of Women Voter Los Angeles County Annual Convention is coming up on March 19th! Come hear Don Knabe, Fourth District County Supervisor, speak. Visit our website: www.beachvoter.org for more information, as well as the LA County website, in the "links" section to find out more!

Education Your Thing? Think EdSource Forum!

Attend the EdSource Forum, Thursday March 17, 2005 at the Manhattan Beach Marriott to hear about the choice between a mandatory college preparatory curriculum and one that provides multiple pathways. For more information and to register go to: edsourcesource.org . The cost is only \$60 for League members.

March Membership Meeting

TOWN HALL ON FOSTER CARE



Los Angeles is home to one of the country's largest child welfare systems, accounting for an astounding one in ten foster children nationwide. "Some children stay in foster care for only a few weeks or months while their parents get their lives back on track, but thousands of others cannot safely be returned home, and too many grow up within the foster care system. As communal 'parents' for these children, we need to provide foster youth with the stability, education, and nurturing that will help put them on the path to stable and productive

adult lives," said Miriam Aroni Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles.

The League of Women Voters Beach Cities and the Redondo Beach Library invite you to a Town Hall Meeting on Foster Care that will provide information about the foster care system, and how you can make a difference. ***The meeting will take place on Monday, March 28, from 7 - 8:45 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Main Library.***

We hope you will decide to join us!

Did You Know?

There are 30,000-plus foster children in LA County alone.

Keeping The Lights On (continued from pg.1)

just to maintain the transmission grid's status quo. Besides fixing the grid, new generation plants will need to be brought on line to replace the 50-year-old generators now operating.

- o Utility consumer advocates suggested we "follow the money" in evaluating utilities' requests for increases in rates to finance new transmission systems, to see if the lines lead to out-of-state generating plants owned by the utilities' affiliates.
- o A speaker from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said since 2002 FERC has had an Office of Market Oversight Investigation staffed with people familiar with past energy trading practices to help guard against future market manipulation.
- o Speakers from several participating entities stated that while renewable resources (solar) remain a high priority, and the CPUC rightly

offers incentives for their use, the greater priority for the foreseeable future is to achieve energy efficiencies through customer programs, improved building designs and increased equipment efficiency. Growth in energy usage is estimated at 2% per year. The goal is to achieve energy efficiencies that will cut that increase in half.

Energy issues will be brought home on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at the General Assembly of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments where the topic will be "Facing the Future - Energy Use and Supply in the South Bay." The conference will take place from 2:00 pm to 7:30 p.m. at the Harlyne J. Norris Pavilion for the Performing Arts Center, 501 Indian Peak Road in Rolling Hills Estates. Anyone interested in registering for the conference should call SBCCOG Executive Director, Jacki Bacharach at 310-377-8987.

-Henrietta Mosley, LWVBC Co-President

Volunteer Help Wanted Ads

NOTICE TYPOS ON DINNER MENUS AND IN NEWSPAPERS?

ENJOY LEARNING TO DO NEW THINGS?

WE WANT YOU FOR EDITOR OF THE BEACH VOTER!!

Are you interested in expanding your skills to desktop publishing? Can you volunteer enough time to edit and layout our monthly newsletter?

You'll get lots of help, plus free lessons in working with desktop publishing software.

Please contact Wendy Phillips, Co-President, at 310-545-9343 or wendy@beachvoter.org.



HELP OUT THE LEAGUE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

WHY NOT SURF THE BEACH CITIES

AS OUR WEBSITE EDITOR???!

This is a volunteer position where you update our online calendar of events, and add new content to our wonderful new website: beachvoter.org. You can do web updates anytime of day or night (whenever it is convenient



for you)- even in your pajamas! While no experience is required—the web editing program is easy (and we'll train you!) and requires no HTML or other computer languages, you will need a computer and internet access.

Please contact Wendy Phillips, Co-President, at 310-545-9343 or wendy@beachvoter.org or Jason Suchman at 310-376-7882 or webmaster@beachvoter.org.

IS YOUR MAILBOX OVERFLOWING?

WANT TO SAVE A TREE?

***NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON,
WHY NOT RECEIVE YOUR BEACH VOTER
NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?! IT'S FAST, IT'S
EASY, AND YOU'LL MOST LIKELY BE
READING YOUR VOTER AHEAD OF THE
CROWD (while they wait for theirs to
arrive by regular snail mail).***

***To sign up, contact Susan Grebe at:
susan@beachvoter.org !***

GREAT RESOURCE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS...

**Want to know about all
the upcoming elections?
Find the most complete
and up to date LWVBC
Calendar? Find useful
resources and links to
other CA Leagues?**

Visit our website:

www.beachvoter.org

THANK YOU!!

NON-EVENT FUNDRAISER - 2005

Thank you, thank you for your generous responses to our "Non-Event." The following members have generously responded to our mail appeal, and we want you to know how grateful we are for your support.

THANK YOU!!

JIM STEWART	JANE MUNSON
KATHERINE OKADA	DORIS ROSENBERG
HARRIET CHASE	LILLIAN LUNT
APRIL WAYLAND	RUTH MONEY*
SALLY SCHREINER	PAUL KRATZ
PAULETTE CAUDILL	SUNHEE PARK
SUSAN RUDNICKI	PEGGY BARTLETT
MICHELLE MURPHY	HENRIETTA MOSLEY
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BARBARA ARLOW	VALLIANOS*
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MARION GREENMAN	MARILYN DUBAS
CHARLOTTE RICHARD	SUSAN GREBE
JANIS HIROHAMA	JOANN KENNELLY
JAMES POLLARD	*ED FUND CONTRIBUTORS

If you haven't given yet, please consider making a donation now. Your Non-Event donations are making it possible to focus our energies on Voters Service activities for the upcoming election on March 8 as well as organizing our Program activities for the rest of the year.

-Wendy and Henrietta, LWVBC Co-Presidents

KUDOS - KUDOS - KUDOS—KUDOS

I want to thank the members of the Education Committee for their outstanding work in preparing and presenting information for the Education Update Consensus meetings. It was a joy to work with such a diligent committee. They include: June Eicker, Marion Greenman, Jeanne Leuschner, Jan Nathanson, Doris Rosenberg and Maggie Wilkinson.

After our Board approves the Consensus Report it will be sent to the State League Education Update Committee. The Committee will evaluate all the responses from local Leagues and formulate a state education update position.

-Harriet Chase, Education Committee Chair

Report on State Program Planning /Holiday Party

Good company and good food added to the success of our 2004 Holiday Party on December 10, where we made recommendations for the State League's Program Planning for 2005-2007. All of the existing LWVC positions were retained and we recommended three Issues for Education and Advocacy:

1. Redistricting, where we feel the emphasis should be on citizen education and legislative action;
2. Election Systems, again we feel that educating the electorate on alternative systems should be emphasized; and
3. Juvenile Justice/Dependency with an effort to educate the public on Federal legislation and the Counties' efforts to meet the new regulations.

We also proposed a new state study on the judiciary. The LWVC has no statewide position on this second branch of government which affects all aspects of our lives. We felt LWVC is in a unique position as a disinterested organization with an acknowledged reputation and prestige to address the issues facing the judiciary.

Thank you to those members who were able to participate in this important process!

-June Eicker & Maggie Wilkinson, LWVBC Program

Membership News

Share Your E-mail With Us!

Would YOU like one less piece of mail delivered to your home?

Want to save a tree?

Want to receive your Voter before your neighbors?

Anyone who wishes to receive the Voter electronically *should contact Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org*. The Voter is always available on website, and we will e-mail you an alert when the new Voter has been posted.

All you will need to do is simply click on a link that will take you to the new Voter!

E-mail addresses provide a wonderful & quick way to keep our members informed & involved!

We send out *Calls to Action* or reminders of upcoming events. If you have an e-mail address and would like to be included e-mail: **Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org**

***We never share your address with other groups . ***

-Susan Grebe & Valma Evans, LWVBC Membership

JOIN THE LEAGUE!!

We're a not-for-profit organization, established in 1920, with the mission of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We never support or oppose political candidates. We do advocate on issues that our members have studied and on which we've reached consensus. All citizens – both men and women of voting age – are welcome to join!

The annual membership fee is \$45 (\$67.50 for household memberships), which is not tax-deductible. Student rates and sponsorships are available on a limited basis. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible.

TO JOIN TODAY, just send this form and your check (payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

I would like to give the gift of League membership to the following friend/couple:

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

For more membership info, contact Susan Grebe, LWVBC Membership Chair, at susan@beachvoter.org or 310-545-2097.

Feb. 28 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Land Use and Transportation Join a discussion about the proposed Plaza El Segundo development at Rosecrans and Sepulveda. (Pg. 3)	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Ave Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
March 8 Tuesday		ELECTIONS: Manhattan Beach Municipal and Redondo Beach Municipal and School Board.	DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Visit our website to learn more about the
March 10 Thursday	6 p.m. supper 7 p.m. program	Tri-League 15th Annual Lasagna Program/ Supper State Senator Debra Bowen will speak on the Governor's proposals. (See flyer insert for more info.)	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90503
March 14 Monday	7:15 - 9:30 p.m.	Monthly League Board Meeting 7 p.m. - social, meeting starts promptly at 7:15 p.m.	Home of Mignon Thiem-Murphy
March 19 Saturday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	LWV Los Angeles County Convention	Community Hospital of Long Beach Visit our website to learn more!
March 28 Monday	7 - 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Town Hall on Foster Care Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director, Children's Law Center will be speaking.	Redondo Beach Public Library 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway Redondo Beach, CA 90277
March. 30 Wednesday	Noon	April/May Beach Voter Deadline	E-mail submissions, pictures, Subject: "April/May Voter," to: Wendy@beachvoter.org .

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