



League of Women Voters Beach Cities

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

# *The Beach Voter*

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Woman's Club of Redondo Beach

400 South Broadway at Pearl (one block south of Torrance Blvd.)

Come hear a panel of local education experts discuss the purpose of federal funding of public education, the pros and cons of *No Child Left Behind* and the future of our education system.

This evening promises to be an informative dialogue with lively discussion on this very timely topic. We hope you will join us for this important program. Please see flyer for more information and share with others who may be interested.

For more information contact Harriet Chase at [Harriet@beachvoter.org](mailto:Harriet@beachvoter.org)

## ANNUAL MEETING

And Salad Luncheon

Saturday May 7th, 2011

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

729 8th Street, Hermosa Beach

This is our annual event to wrap up the year. ***Please bring a salad to share*** and ideas for what you would like to see our League focus on for the coming year. It is your ideas and participation that make up our direction and focus. We need suggestions for a local study. We need to know what our members are most concerned about and where you want us to put our emphasis and energy. We are a grass roots organization and now is the time to plan for the coming year.

You are encouraged to bring a guest. Guests do not have to bring anything other than their interest in learning about League, who we are and what we do.

For directions or more information contact Joan Arias at [Joan@beachvoter.org](mailto:Joan@beachvoter.org)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Education Program	1
Annual Meeting	1
Inside This Issue	2
Thank You—Non Event	3
Desalinisation Report	4
County Convention Report	5
Smart Voter	6
Redistricting	6
LWVC Convention	6
Clean Air Act	7
Calendar	8

The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

**The Beach Voter**

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

For membership. Send check in the amount of \$55.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NON-EVENT**

**As you can see we have added contributors to our Non-Event. We are grateful for every donation and there is still time to give and be included in this yearly event. Thanks to all our generous League members. The total of contributions given at this time is \$2,591.00 plus \$525.00 contributed to our Ed Fund account.**

**Peggy Bartlett, Treasurer**



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JANIS HIROHAMA

JAN NATHANSON (in memory of Beth Perkins)

DIXIE ROY

CECILIA BALL

MAGGIE WILKINSON

SUSAN GREBE

PEGGY BARTLETT

LILLIAN LUNT

## **Feedback from Our Go – See Tour**

### **Of the Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Project in Redondo Beach**

**By Maggie Wilkinson and Wendy Phillips**

We had over 20 people attend our March 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning tour of the West Basin Desal Demonstration project at the Sea Lab in Redondo Beach. Ron Wildermuth, West Basin Municipal Water District's public and government affairs manager, was our guide. He was very helpful in explaining the role that West Basin MWD plays in bring water to a million people in our area.

Ron explained the District's concern regarding having enough water in the future to meet the needs of our area. We are looking at severe water supply problems. The State water supply system is out of date, there are limits on pumping water from Northern CA due to environmental concerns, global warming is reducing the snow pack which supplies us with water in the summer, population growth continues, California has lost its surplus water from the Colorado River and we are faced with future environmental challenges for this resource.

The District's desalination demonstration project is part of an initiative to reduce the amount of imported water in the South Bay from 66% to 33% by 2020. This project is testing ways of extracting water from the ocean to convert it into drinking water using reverse osmosis. During this demonstration phase, the desalted ocean water is not put into our drinking water supply; rather, it is discharged back into the ocean.

One of the challenges of this technology is the intensive level of energy needed to power reverse osmosis. Another challenge is understanding the effects of the intake pumps on local currents and the fish and other aquatic life that could become entrapped or entrained in the processing equipment. West Basin is testing a wedge-wire screen at the ocean intake point. Another challenge is understanding the effects on fish and other aquatic life from disposal on the ocean floor of a highly concentrated brine that is a waste by-product of reverse osmosis. So according to Ron, they take more ocean water than needed for the process, dilute what goes back to the ocean and put it in a pipe with holes on the sides, so the water diffuses into a larger area rather than a concentrated dump in a smaller area. Environmentalists should be watching the project very carefully. Pending the evaluation of impacts, the District will be applying for permits to scale up to a full-scale plant that processes 20 million gallons per day.

After our tour, we each had a glass of desalinated water and it tasted good.

If you would like to visit this facility and perhaps share the experience with family and friends, starting May 1<sup>st</sup> the Sea Lab will be open to the public with water education guides giving tours. To find out the times of these tours, you may contact the West Basin facility at (310) 217-2411, or check the district's web - [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).

Report from LWV/LAC Convention March 26th, 2011

## Is Privatization a Useful Tool?

A Presentation by Santos H. Kreimann, Director of L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors

Director Kreimann gave the County League of Women Voters an interesting prelude to the new National Study of Privatization by describing the way the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors has implemented privatization programs at the Marina del Rey Harbor area. The department is small (256 employees) with a 60 million dollar budget divided between the Marina and the Beach areas and manages, through its privatization programs, to return money to the general fund each year; this year Mr. Kreimann estimates the Department will return \$18 million. The Department services 52 million visitors and is responsible for 1200 acres and 47,000 wet slips plus apartments, hotels, shops and other resources. Marina del Rey is undergoing significant redevelopment, much of it involving projects that are privatized.

In answer to the question "What is Privatization?" Mr. Kreimann gave the following definition: "the transfer of ownership or control of government assets or functions to private entities." He noted that there is a great deal of pressure these days to privatize for financial reasons and to improve efficiency and service. In the Los Angeles area, he pointed to charter schools and public parking garages as examples of privatization.

Among the benefits of privatization are: cash infusions to the County, risk transfer from the County to developers, expert know-how that the County does not have in house, quality of life enhancements, cost reductions and job creation. Such services to the public as food preparation and sales, equipment rentals on beaches, cleaning and maintenance have been privatized to the benefit of the County, according to Mr. Kreimann.

In answer to questions, he described the requirements for developers and other projects around the Los Angeles area: the Hollywood/Wilshire Public Health Center and Los Angeles Free Clinic Partnership, the Music Center and Disney Concert Hall Maintenance and the Grand Avenue Redevelopment and Construction of Civic Parks project.

Mr. Kreimann's presentation served as an excellent introduction to the subject of privatization and left us with a great deal to think about as we begin our study.

Submitted by Joan Arias

**Smart Voter**

The [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org) team thanks the board of the LWVBC for its generous donation to [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org) - the signature program of the LWVC Education Fund. This unique public service provides **free** Web space to all California candidates, which helps candidates inform voters about their qualifications and positions - and it provides a **free** Web site for voters, with well organized information on candidates and ballot measures.

Funding for SmartVoter.org does not come from your member dues (PMP paid to the LWVC). SmartVoter.org relies on financial support from county registrars and city clerks as well as donations from local Leagues and individuals. Can you help continue smart Voter's important service with a personal donation? You may make a tax deductible contribution on line at <http://www.cavotes.org/about/donate> (under special instructions, please write SmartVoter) or send a check (with a note designating the contribution for SmartVoter) to the LWVC Education Fund, 1107 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814.

With gratitude,

Janelle Freeman, SmartVoter Local Coordinator

Wendy Phillips, SmartVoter Liason

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**Update on Redistricting**

An unexpected bonus at the LWV/LAC convention this past March 26th was Chris Carson's report on the progress of the redistricting effort. She is keeping close tabs on the progress of the commission and wanted to emphasis the importance of following these discussions live and online at <http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/> where all the links and information can be found. Links to this site are also available from the LWV website as well.

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**State Convention**

LWVC State Convention takes place in Ventura May 13th—15th. Our delegates are Janelle Freeman, Jan Nathanson, Harriet Chase and Wendy Phillips. Several of us will be going up on Sunday the 15th to watch as Janis Hirohama (LWVBC member) completes her four year term as State President. Anyone wishing to join us on Sunday can call Susan Grebe 310-545-2097. Janis has seen LWVC through the huge undertaking to bring about redistricting in California. We are very proud of Janis and all her accomplishments.

# CLEAN AIR ACT:

## A New Approach to Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

With the demise of cap-and-trade legislation during the 2010 session of Congress, the climate action spotlight has shifted to the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act (CAA). But efforts are now underway to block EPA regulations of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In Congress, bills have been introduced that would, for example, amend the CAA to exclude regulation of GHGs, limit the use of EPA funds, and delay regulation of GHG emissions for two years. The League of Women Voters strongly opposes such efforts.

### Clean Air Act of 1970

In the aftermath of the first Earth Day in April, 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act and created the EPA to implement the new law. Over the 40 years that the CAA has been in effect, it has yielded dramatic public health and environmental benefits. CAA programs have achieved major reductions in dangerous air pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and lead poisoning. The EPA reports that this has prevented hundreds of thousands of premature deaths, has helped millions avoid developing respiratory ailments and heart disease, and (by banning leaded gasoline) has greatly reduced the incidence of low child IQ. The benefits of these advances have far exceeded the cost of compliance. An EPA analysis of the CAA's first 20 years found that the dollar value of the human health and environmental benefits amounted to more than 40 times the costs of regulation. For the 1990-2010 period, as requirements have become more stringent, the EPA estimates a benefit-to-cost ratio of four to one.

### U.S. Supreme Court Ruling

Despite these achievements, concerns about global warming pollution led Massachusetts and 11 other states to sue the EPA over its failure to regulate GHG emissions from the transportation sector. They charged that human-influenced global climate change was causing adverse effects, such as the rising of the sea-level in the state of Massachusetts. In a 5-4 decision in April 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that carbon dioxide and other GHGs meet the definition of "air pollutants" under the CAA.

The Court directed the EPA to determine whether or not GHG emissions from new motor vehicles (the sector cited in the lawsuit) cause or contribute to air pollution that may endanger the public health or welfare. In 2009, the EPA responded by conducting an extensive examination of the scientific evidence and, in December, 2009, made a determination – the "endangerment finding" – that GHG concentrations in the atmosphere do threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations and that GHG emissions from new motor vehicles contribute to the atmospheric concentration of these gases.

### The Clean Cars Rule

The EPA then partnered with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to set increasingly stringent standards for GHG emissions and fuel efficiency for passenger cars and light-duty trucks for model years 2012-2016. The Federal Rules mirror California's Clean Car standards, also adopted by 13 other states, and set a target of 35.5 miles per gallon (MPG) for 2016 model year vehicles. The auto industry welcomed the uniform national standards.

The new standards surpass the 2007 federal fuel economy law, which required an average fuel economy of 35 mpg in 2020. The EPA estimates that the new rules will cut GHG emissions by 960 million metric tons over the regulated vehicles' lifetime, equivalent to taking 50 million cars and light trucks off the road in 2030. Consumers can expect to save \$3,000 over the life time of a model-year 2016 vehicle.

### Stationary Source Regulations

The EPA is also phasing in regulations for major stationary sources of GHG emissions (e.g. power plants and facilities). As of January 2, 2011, rules requiring new or substantially modified facilities to obtain permits that address their GHG emissions have begun to take effect. These facilities must make use of "best available control technologies" to minimize GHG emissions. (Together, power plants and refineries account for about a 40 percent of all U.S. GHG emissions.)

(Reprinted from the April 2011 Issue of LWV Pasadena Voter)

**CALENDAR**

|                                     |                                                |                                                                                      |                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April 12th</b><br><b>Tuesday</b> | <b>7 PM</b>                                    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                                                                 | <b>Maggie Wilkinson</b><br><b>430 Loma Vista</b><br><b>El Segundo</b>                                   |
| <b>April 26nd</b><br><b>Tuesday</b> | <b>7 PM</b>                                    | <b>General Meeting</b><br><b>“How the Feds Impact our Kid’s</b><br><b>Education”</b> | <b>Women’s Club of</b><br><b>Redondo Beach</b><br><b>400 So. Broadway</b><br><b>Redondo Beach, CA</b>   |
| <b>May 7th</b><br><b>Saturday</b>   | <b>10:00 AM</b><br><b>To</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> | <b>Annual Meeting</b>                                                                | <b>Home of Joan Arias</b><br><b>729 8th Street</b><br><b>Hermosa Beach</b><br><b>Phone 310-798-8797</b> |
| <b>May 13th—15th</b>                | <b>All Day</b>                                 | <b>LWVC Convention</b>                                                               | <b>Crown Plaza Hotel</b><br><b>450 E. Harbor Blvd.</b><br><b>Ventura CA</b>                             |
|                                     |                                                |                                                                                      |                                                                                                         |

*Welcome to new member Mary Gluck of Los Angeles*



**League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**  
**701 13th Street**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**