



League of Women Voters of the Bay Area



VOTER
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Greenhouse gas reduction targets under SB 375 were a major issue over the summer for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Joint Policy Committee (JPC). LWV Bay Area signed onto a July 1 letter to the JPC asking that they set ambitious targets for 2020 and 2035. Ambitious targets were adopted; some consider them difficult to achieve because they will require elected officials to take measures which will increase substantially the cost of driving cars over the next twenty-five years.

The BART Oakland Airport Connector (OAC) was revived by the MTC. LWV Bay Area sent a July 20 letter asking them not to act until the federally required civil rights equity analysis has been completed; it was completed just in time for their vote. We sent a July 17 letter to MTC asking for an open process in finding funding for the OAC. All of our letters are available at <http://lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html>

Vehicle Registration Fees will be on most Bay Area counties on the November ballot. This \$10 fee will support specific local transportation projects. LWV Bay Area, sensing that this is a regional concern, recommended to local Leagues that they support these measures at the county level.

Greenhouse gas reduction is the subject of California Proposition 23 which would suspend the state's law (AB 32) requiring major sources of emission to report and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, until unemployment drops to 5.5% or less for a full year. LWV California opposes Prop. 23. LWV Bay Area plans to be active in opposition campaign; we plan to use the LWV California Action Guide as our resource. We recommend that local Leagues act to educate voters about this measure which has big negative implications for the Bay Area.

--Marion Taylor

* Water Bond Postponed

LWV Bay Area cancels September 13 Pro/Con meeting on Water Bond

The California Legislature has removed from the November ballot Prop. 18, the water bond measure; they are postponing it to 2012. Thus LWV Bay Area has canceled its September 13 presentation of pros and cons on the measure. The next issue of the Bay Area Monitor will contain details about the postponement of the water bond.

On September 13 the LWVBA Natural Resources Committee will meet to plan the January 2011 Bay Area League Day. Any interested League member is welcome to attend. The meeting is at the EBMUD Resource Center in downtown Oakland at 375 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607, from 11:30-1:00 p.m. For more information contact Eileen Whitty ewhitty@ebmud.com or Gail Schickele gails@bayarea.net.

* Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville Monthly Environmental Meetings

LWV Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville **Environmental Concerns** continues monthly meetings open to the public on the second Monday of September through May, with the exception of October, which will be the 3rd Monday. Fall dates are: September 13, October 18, November 8, and December 13. Fall meetings will focus on Climate Change issues and initiatives, with the October 18 meeting focus on November 2010 ballot initiatives including PROP 23 that Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards. The LWV California vigorously opposes this energy proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. For information contact Carol Stone seastone01@comcast.net or Gail Schickele gails@bayarea.net

* Dan Kammen to speak in Piedmont

Dr. Daniel Kammen will speak at a public forum in Piedmont on Wednesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. The event, "Save Carbon/Save Money" will be held in the newly-renovated Ellen Driscoll Playhouse, 325 Highland Avenue, Piedmont. Dr. Kammen, a UC Berkeley professor and expert on national energy policy issues, will present the big picture of the energy future facing our nation and the world. Following his slide-show presentation, a panel of representatives from Alameda StopWaste, PG&E, and the City of Piedmont will focus on what individual homeowners can do to save energy at home. They will answer audience questions regarding energy efficiency, conservation, solar installations and green building/remodeling practices.

The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Piedmont and Piedmont CONNECT.

* Monitor on Line

LWVBA would like to remind members of local Leagues that the **Bay Area Monitor**, an LWVBAEF educational newsletter covering transportation, air quality, water quality, open space, and land use issues from a regional angle, is available to read on the Internet. To receive notifications when new newsletters get posted online, visit www.bayareamonitor.org and click the "Subscribe" tab near the top of the page. Then enter your name and e-mail address on the subsequent page and click the "Subscribe" button. There is no need to worry about receiving extraneous messages, as only six notifications get e-mailed out every year. Please feel free to e-mail Bay Area Monitor editor Alec MacDonald at editor@bayareamonitor.org with any questions, or to be added to the hard copy subscriber list.

* Interleague Network Meeting Dates

South Meetings, 2nd Thursday, odd months, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

LWV Palo Alto Office, 953 Industrial Ave., Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

- September 9, 2010
- November 11, 2010

North Meetings, 4th Wednesday, even months, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville office, 1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley, CA, 94702

- October 27, 2010