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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – January 2005

As an organization, the League of Women Voters knows the history of where government policy has been and can appreciate when changes we have been promoting finally emerge. We are also one of the few groups that does not have a problem of saying a proposed policy is good, if it is. We do not need to always criticize to make a point.

Our LWV Bay Area Board, therefore, was delighted to conclude that the proposed Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Transportation 2030 Plan is worthy of support, and furthermore, now clearly recognizes that transportation plans should incorporate the region-wide Smart Growth Vision to focus compact, more intense, development within existing developed areas. After many years, of taking a narrow view of it’s role solely to meet the transportation needs in terms of future demand projected from existing land use plans, and to disclaim any role in how these transportation projects would affect development, MTC’s draft now clearly recognizes the land use-transportation connection.

We will be following up to address how the regional plan will be implemented at the local level both with presentations at our Bay Area League Day and through surveys of your local cities that we will be sending out in early January. We are also participating with MTC to draft a regional policy for station area planning grants to local agencies to plan for higher intensity, rider-friendly transit hubs.

Linda Craig, President
LWV of the Bay Area, president@lwwba-ca.org

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SPECIAL NOTICE

What’s the truth about Land Use Planning and Transportation in the Bay Area?

We’re about to find out! Your chance to participate in a survey with Planning Directors in your local area is coming in the mail the first week of January. We’re asking you to mail the questionnaire to your local Planning Director well before setting up an interview. Someone from the Bay Area Board will join you for the interview. We will be compiling the interviews. Our goal is to identify the best and worst practices of planning to see if our communities are engaging in Smart Growth. Leagues can compare their own cities with others and see how the entire Bay area is doing. Thanks in advance for your help.

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BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

“Bay Area Regional Planning – from Vision to Reality”

Saturday, January 29, 2005
Metro Center Auditorium,
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA
(Across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station)

9:30 am : Registration and refreshments
10: 00 am – 1 pm : Program

Keynote – Making Regional Planning Work

Ted Droettboom, Regional Planning Program Director,

ABAG-MTC Joint Policy Committee

Panel – Alternative Models for Regional Planning

Revan Tranter, former Executive Director of ABAG; Will Travis, Executive Director, BCDC; and Nick Bollman, Director, California Center for Regional Leadership

Panel – Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally

Four local elected officials' perspective on the challenge of implementing the regional vision and values at the local level. Three confirmed: Sue Lampert, Councilmember, San Mateo; Nate Miley, Supervisor, Alameda County; and David Cortese, Councilmember, San Jose.

Cost \$10 per person. RSVP to landuse@lwbva-ca.org

A post-event tour is planned to the Fruitvale Transit Village, as an example of a successful transit-oriented development. Please let us know if you want to participate so we can reserve enough spaces for no-host lunch and tour. We will also confirm the number attending the post-event tour when you register the morning of Bay Area League Day.

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Calendar:

Thursday, January 13, 2005, 12:15 – 2pm, **IN Committee South**. Menlo Park Library on Alma St. in the LWV South San Mateo office.

Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 12:15 – 2 p.m., **IN Committee North**. Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League office, 1414 University Avenue Suite D: Phone 510-843-8824.

Please send agenda items for February 9th programvp@lwbva-ca.org

Friday, January 28, 2005: The LWVC Energy Study Committee Forum "*Keeping the Lights On*" at the California Public Utilities Commission, McAllister and Van Ness, San Francisco (across from City Hall) from 9 am to 4 pm. Cost \$25 including box lunch, \$15 without (bag OK). The presenters include the most significant decision makers in the state. Registration deadline: January 25. For more details and to register, go to the LWVC website:

<http://www.ca.lwv.org>

Saturday, January 29, 2005: Bay Area League Day, focusing on the status of Regional Planning in the Bay Area. See above for details.

Friday, February 4, 2005, 11:30 – 1:30, **Natural Resources/Water Committee**. EBMUB Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland., 8th Floor, natural_resources@lwbva-ca.org

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Web Sites:

Bay Area Monitor: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwbva-ca.org>

LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

Dianne Feinstein: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/>

Emails:

Barbara Boxer: senator@boxer.senate.gov

Dianne Feinstein: senator@feinstein.senate.gov

George W. Bush: president@whitehouse.gov

Arnold Schwarzenegger: Governor@Governor.ca.gov