

LWVBA VOTER July 2005

Joyce Roy, Editor
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – July 2005

In June, the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its formation. In 1955 the District was entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay. It was the first of the region-wide agencies established in the Bay Area, followed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (1961), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (1965) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (1971). The Regional Water Quality Control Board, a regional division of a State Agency was established in 1950. (For more details about these agencies see the LWVBA Decision Makers). At the anniversary celebration, the BAAQMD, and the Bay Area in general, were recognized for being in the forefront of environmental protection activities that later spread to the rest of the nation. In the future, the Bay Area and California could also become an important influence in addressing global warming, such as reducing greenhouse emissions.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area was formed in 1959 not only to address issues of region-wide concern, but also to encourage the coordinated/consolidated decision-making at this level. LWVBA's main focus is on the decisions made by these regional agencies, and we try to keep League members throughout the Bay Area informed about what these agencies do and are supposed to do. Please read our bi-monthly "Bay Area Monitor" publication (www.bayareamonitor.org) and plan to attend our Know Your Bay Area Meeting on September 24, and Bay Area League Day on January 27.

Linda Craig, President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
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Know Your Bay Area Day
"Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act"
How has it worked, does it need to be changed?

Saturday, September 24, 2005
Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd
<http://www.aclibrary.org/branches/frm/fremonthome.asp>

9:30 registration and refreshments
10 am – 1 pm Program

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Bio for **Susan R. Gearhart**,
New Natural Resources/Water Director on LWVBA board

Since I was 18 years old, voting for the first time in California, I have appreciated the League of Women Voters. I was working mom with three children and would attempt to keep up with State issues but truthfully the local issues were the ones I was quite familiar with, and, of course, the Governor and President. If it hadn't been for the LWV, I would not have ever had the opportunity to express my vote. The presentation of the Pro's and Con's, the opportunity to read all before down and marked my ballot was the only real opportunity to vote responsibly. I now have more time; my children are grown. I have always lived in the Bay Area; my father and Grandfather were also born here. We have a great deal of the San Francisco Bay and the grasslands from Napa to Hollister. My husband and I started a group of people to write a

initiative to protect our grasslands in the hills and it covers 33,000 acres. We are proud it passed by the people overwhelmingly, but still never seem to be able to close our eyes on it. The League of Women Voters was so very supportive and the local chapter was able to sign the ballot measure. On our David Binder Poll, the LWV was the # 1 respected organization that voters look toward for understanding voting decisions.

I have been a Co-President of the League of Women Voters in Fremont Newark and Union City for the past two years. I have a splendid group of individuals that really attempt to have you participate in the areas of your passion. So for the first time they have created an Environmental Director on the Board that will also have the potential to link with the LWVBA and bring to us the regional issue and we bring environmental issues from our back yard to you. The SFPUC Hetch-Hetchy and the Alameda Creek Alliance issues both related to water flows into the bay, and of course the continuous wetlands restoration that is such a priority for the health of our Bay. I am very excited that Eileen Whitty has consented to be a Co-Chair with me because I believe what the LWVBA has accomplished so much and should continue. Eileen's vision for tomorrow will blend with us from the south bay and hopefully it will be an exciting future.

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The Bay Area Monitor

June/July, 2005 issue will include the following:

- "Creating a Bay Area Master Plan for Water"
- "Rethinking CEQA: A New Look at Environmental Impact Reports"
- "Bad Air Day Means Free Ride to Work - BART, Bus or Ferry"
- "Air District Looks Back - and Ahead"
- "New Transit, New Riders: A Policy to Make the Promise Come True"

These articles can be viewed on the Monitor website www.bayareamonitor.org

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The Monitor needs observers for the following agencies:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Golden Gate Bridge District; East Bay
- Regional Parks District (just lost a monitor)
- Caltrain
- WTA (Water Transit Authority)

We will pay \$25 to either the local League or to the observer for any month in which the observer attends at least one meeting and submits a report. Other regional agencies of interest include the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Port. Because these are not directly involved with the Monitor, we would not pay to have the meetings monitored, although the information would be helpful.

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Calendar:

Friday, August 12, 2005, 11:30 – 1:30, Natural Resources/Water Committee. EBMUB Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland. New meeting Room: Mezzanine Training Room. Presentation by Save the Bay Association on the Moffett Field Site 25 clean-up. For more info contact Eileen Whitty: ewhitty@ebmud.com

Thursday, July 14, 2005, 12:15 – 2pm, IN Committee South. Westminster House, 457 Kingsley, Palo Alto. Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogrand: programvp@lwvba-ca.org

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, September 10, 2005 — LWVC Regional Fall Training Session

Saturday, September 24, 2005 — Know Your Bay Area Day:

“Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act”

Fremont (Alameda County) Main Library, Fukaya Room. 9:30 am – 1:00pm.

October 4-6 — San Francisco Estuary Project conference on **State of the Estuary** (LWVBA is a co-sponsor) in the Kaiser Auditorium near the Oakland Museum.

Friday, January 27, 2006 — Bay Area League Day: **State of the Bay – Restoration and Access**

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Web Sites:

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

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

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvba-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/>

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