

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – September, 2004**

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area believes that government at the regional level should be structured so that it can effectively and responsibly solve those problems that transcend political boundaries. Our long-established position favors the creation of a multi-purpose planning agency for the Bay Area, or in the interim, consolidation of existing regional agencies. Yet those goals are not on the horizon; in fact, the prospect of these occurring seems to be moving farther and farther away.

In the meantime, we're trying to advance the "regional viewpoint" for both local land use decision-making and issues that transcend local boundaries, such as transportation system planning, air quality, quality of the bay, etc. Current projects we're monitoring include the connection between land use and transportation planning which is moving forward in MTC's development of its Transportation 2030 Plan, and taking a new look at the status of regional planning in the Bay Area with the formation of the ABAG-MTC Joint Policy Committee. We'll keep you posted on these in the coming months.

Linda Craig, LWVBA President  
[president@lwbva-ca.org](mailto:president@lwbva-ca.org)

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**GET INVOLVED WITH REGIONAL ISSUES**

The board of **LWVBA** is looking for some good women or good men to serve on the board. The position of Administrative VP and Ed Fund/Monitor VP are vacant. If you or someone you know may be interested, contact Jane Bergen, Chair of Nominating Committee at [nominatingchair@lwbva-ca.org](mailto:nominatingchair@lwbva-ca.org)

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**KNOW YOUR BAY AREA DAY**

Saturday, October 2, 2004

San Francisco Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito  
 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito

**OCEAN WATER ON TAP*****ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF DESALINATION PLANTS IN THE BAY AREA***

The topic will be about desalination plant projects and water, with panels discussing economic, political and environmental issues of locating and operating plants of this type in the Bay Area. Two panels will include representatives from the bay area water agencies planning these projects, as well as the regulators charged with project approvals.

**Overview of Desalination Issues** will be the Keynote Speech by Rita Sudman, Editor, Western Water Magazine, Water Education Foundation.

Eileen Whitty and Trish Cypher will moderate the two panels.  
 The panelists are:

Hasan Abdullah, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 Jared Huffman, Marin Municipal Water District  
 Ernesto Avila, consultant for the Northern California Salinity Coalition  
 Al Wanger, Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission  
 Jeff Blanchard, Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
 Marc DelPiero, Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Community Services District.

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The cost is \$10.00.

Registration is at 9:30 AM with the program starting at 10 AM and ending at 1:30 PM.

There will be a continental breakfast available.

RSVP to [sandy@waterfrontaction.org](mailto:sandy@waterfrontaction.org) by Monday, September 27, 2004 with names of people attending by League. To send a check, please e-mail [treasurer@lwbvba-ca.org](mailto:treasurer@lwbvba-ca.org) for information.

### **Directions to Bay Model:**

Highway 280 or 101 north to 19th Ave in San Francisco. Drive over Golden Gate Bridge. Continuing on highway 1 take the last Sausalito exit, Sausalito/Marin City exit, turn right on Bridgeway. Off exit is on Bridgeway, brown and white signs.

More details of the event can be found on the LWVBA web site at [www.lwbvba-ca.org](http://www.lwbvba-ca.org)

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## **LWVBA ACTION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Ballot Measures**

On the November 2004 ballot, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports, and has signed ballot arguments in favor of, Measure BB, AC Transit Parcel Tax increase and extension, and Measure CC, East Bay Regional Park District Parcel Tax in Area 1 (primarily along the west side of the District). As of this writing, we have not yet taken a position on the BART general obligation bond measure for seismic retrofitting, but will let every League in the District know if we decide to do so at a later date. LWVBA will draft Pros and Cons on these three measures and provide them to affected local Leagues by mid-September.

With the consent of LWV California, LWVBA also wrote a letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority requesting that all alternatives for the HSR project in Northern California should be analyzed in the EIR, including the Altamont Pass route.

### **Saving Regional Measure 2 – Saga of the Bay Bridge Cost Overrun**

Ten days before the end of the Legislative Session, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed legislation to require the Bay Area, instead of the State of California, to pay for the entire remaining cost of the SF Bay Bridge reconstruction, which is substantially over budget.

Part of his solution was to ask the Bay Area voters on this November ballot to approve the use of the Regional Measure 2 increase of \$1 in bridge tolls, just approved in March 2004, for the Bay Bridge instead of for the projects that were identified in the measure. LWVBA, which signed the argument in favor of RM2, along with the Transportation and Land Use Coalition, launched an effort to protect RM2 projects, and to protect the Bay Area transportation ballot measures on the November ballot in 5 counties and BART from a competing transportation funding measure. We went to Sacramento for a day of lobbying on Monday, August 23, and LWVBA's letter to the editor was printed in both the SF Chronicle and San Jose Mercury News. As of the close of the session, a bill to arrange enough money to award the bid on the east-span tower, pending an audit of the cost overruns, passed the Senate but did not get through the Assembly before adjournment. The Governor's proposal did not get out of an Assembly Committee, so there will be no measure on the Nov. ballot, and RM 2 is saved for now. There is still no solution about how to pay for the remainder of the Bay Bridge project. Stay tuned.

Linda Craig, President

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Letters to the Editor

**Don't change transit measure**

In March 2004, voters in seven Bay Area counties strongly endorsed Regional Measure 2, calling for a \$1 increase in bridge tolls to pay for specific safety and congestion-relief projects and to support transit operations for Bay Area commuters. The measure passed by well over the required margin, a major political achievement. Now, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposes to ask these same voters eight months later if this \$1 toll increase could instead be used to cover some of the cost overruns on the replacement Bay Bridge construction -- and forget about funding the other important projects and services such as the seismic retrofit of the BART transbay tube. The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supported Measure 2 and the projects and services it would fund. We object to any other use of these monies. In fact, we strongly oppose this substitute proposal, after voters have made their wishes known. We urge concerned citizens to tell their legislators and the governor that they oppose any change to Regional Measure 2, and not to put another measure on the November 2004 ballot.

Linda Craig  
President  
League of Women Voters

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**NATURAL RESOURCES/WATER COMMITTEE**

The next Natural Resources/Water Committee meeting will be held on September 24, 11 am to 1 p.m. at the office of East Bay Municipal Utility District. Please join Trish Cypher and Co-chair Eileen Whitty for a discussion of regional issues such as the Cal Fed Task Force, the Basin Plan Amendment and Emerging Contaminants. Other topics may include sustainability and pesticides. A discussion on the use of the web, cyber-seats and a possible web site for NR/W will also be part of the meeting. Bring your lunch and opinions to the meeting. If there is time, we will make plans for next year. Thanks to all of the loyal members who have been part of the committee. Our brilliant webmeister, Sandy Threlfall has set up an e-mail for the committee at: [natural\\_resources@lwwba-ca.org](mailto:natural_resources@lwwba-ca.org). Feel free to e-mail with ideas, comments or issues you want to share.

**INTER-LEAGUE NETWORK COMMITTEE**

The Inter-league Network Committee – SOUTH, will meet Wednesday September 8, 2004 at 12:15 pm, LWV South San Mateo County office, Menlo Park Library basement 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park. The Inter-league Network Committee NORTH is on Wednesday, October 13 at 12:15 pm in the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League office 1414 University Ave. Suite D (above Andronico's Market), Berkeley. Please forward any items for the agenda as well as suggestions for how you would the meetings to proceed. I look forward to working with you. Iris  
Iris R. Winogrand, VP Program and IN Committee chair: [iwinogrand@aol.com](mailto:iwinogrand@aol.com)

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**A SHORT HISTORY of the MONITOR for its 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The Bay Area Monitor is entering its 30th year of publication. In those three decades a lot has changed, from the name of the project to the agencies which help to fund it. The US EPA, which funded the first issues as part of the Transportation Alternatives Project, gave way to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the project became the Regional Alternatives Project. Other agencies were added (and dropped) over the years: the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, East Bay Regional Parks District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, BART, AC Transit, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, Caltrain/Samtrans, the Port of Oakland, and the brand-new San Francisco Water Transit Authority.

The Monitor began as an advocacy tool and evolved into an educational publication, emphasized by its recent transition

to the LWVBA Education Fund. Budgets swelled and diminished again, the office moved from Oakland to Lafayette and back, and issues were published on different schedules. Despite all the changes, the Monitor has survived and become a respected publication which is now sent bimonthly to almost 3900 readers around the region and across the country and has its own home on the Web.

Credit goes to many people for this accomplishment, beginning with the first LWVBA board which developed the project, found the staff, and set the expectations. Later boards provided oversight, talked new agencies into providing funding, and pulled the publication through occasional rough times, financial and otherwise. The Monitor has been fortunate to have had long periods of stable leadership under three editors, Holly Hollingsworth, Ernestine DeFalco and now Leslie Stewart.

Although much has changed, some things have remained the same. A recent glance at the earliest issues yielded these highlights from 1975: "The Air Resources Board has been making headlines with its hard line for auto emission standards that are more stringent than EPA requirements. A restructuring proposal by the governor would place the ARB and the Water Resources Control and Solid Waste Management Boards in a new Environmental Quality Agency." "Local governments are having difficulty in maintaining their streets...Although maintenance costs have increased by 49%, state aid has increased only 29%." "The ABAG/MTC Joint Policy Committee (JPC) reaffirmed their willingness to undertake a study where land use and transportation planning overlap in a politically visible and controversial corridor. Committee members decided that if the regional level of decision making is to prove viable, studies such as the Santa Clara Transportation Corridor must be undertaken and a regional role played in the process."

On the positive side, there have been great improvements in air quality as residents have learned the early Monitor message that transportation and air pollution are linked. "Growth management" and "smart growth" are changing regional development patterns. Throughout the region, not just in the inner Bay Area, cities and counties have recognized that they are part of a region and that this fact is important to them and to their residents. The Monitor has covered these changes, and the region continues to change. Upcoming Monitor issues will cover transportation security post-9/11, regional water supply planning, salt pond restoration, paying tolls to use carpool lanes, and many other new ideas -- as well as keeping everyone up to date on those holdovers from 1975.

Leslie Stewart

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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/>

### **Emails:**

Barbara Boxer: [senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)

Dianne Feinstein: [senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)

George W. Bush: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Arnold Schwarzenegger: [Governor@Governor.ca.gov](mailto:Governor@Governor.ca.gov)