

**LWVBA VOTER**  
**December 2005**

**Editor: Joyce Roy**

**UPDATE FROM LWV BAY AREA**

**BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY – Friday, January 27, 2006: STATE OF THE BAY SYMPOSIUM**

The San Francisco Bay is the centerpiece of our region, and the Bay's potential decline, restoration and future health is the key to our region's future. Join us on Friday, January 27, 2006 to hear about what has happened to the Bay over the past 40 years and how we can protect, use and enjoy it in the future.

For more detailed information, see our website, [www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org). The event is \$30, including morning refreshments and lunch, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

**REGIONAL ACTION ON SF HETCH-HETCHY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

An action letter was sent to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission regarding **Regional Water System Improvement Program Revisions for the Hetch-Hetchy system**, co-signed by LWV of San Francisco and LWVBA, supporting funding for watershed improvement, such as habitat restoration and ecosystem protection, along with watershed land acquisition, establishing a level of service for freshwater flows for environmental stewardship, emphasizing water conservation and considering the use of recycled water. The letter will be posted on our website for your reference. A copy of the letter will also be transmitted to the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which represents the regional water purchasers (based on LWVC positions on Water, with their permission).

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

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**COMING ATTRACTION**

**BAY AREA MONITOR** Dec./Jan. Issue:

**Opening Up the Bay: Salt Pond Restoration, Management & Access**

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**Celebrating Science and Stewardship:** Abstract from the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference: October 4, 5, and 6, 2005.

The simple question with a lengthy answer: "How must we protect and restore the San Francisco Bay Estuary?"

Attempts to advance economic prosperity, provide more housing, reduce traffic congestion and keep the region a leader in innovation is really what concerns most politicians, but how can they ignore the Bay, the environment and the science? How can the environment and science community communicate Bay issues to the politicians? The Bay is clean enough to swim in but don't eat the fish!

This three-day session helped all of us to better communicate. Science can be awesome unless you see how it is applied. On Tuesday, we heard many discussions of restorations taking place within the San Francisco Bay. The South Bay Salt Pond, the largest restoration project, and its science, is what ventures to give us predictability that ultimately will provide a successful program. As science picks up variability in its model, it can be addressed before the wetland restoration fails and help to reduce or eliminate the problems.

Wednesday, topics were on the multiple problems plaguing the Delta. From foreign species brought in by foreign ships to the conditions of the Delta's walls. With global warming, melting snow packs will affect water level. Restoration of rivers, especially the San Joaquin River was paramount.

Adaptive Real-time Management was a term used both days. Measurements from scientists and wildlife behavior reveal how the S.F. Estuary with its rivers and deltas is responding to every action. This analysis can provide direction for any needed change. The term "Estuary" denotes the movement within the Bay, not just from tides, but also fresh river water action and the levels of salinity within the deltas..

The last day addressed the great challenges to the stewards — restoration of Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Creek Watersheds, and National Parks. There are obstacles and limitations but much more in the way of opportunity in the next ten years. They look forward to evaluating future restoration success.

We are all stewards of the land; the environment belongs to all of us now and in the future.

Susan R. Gearhart  
LWVFNUC, Environmental Director  
LWVBA, Natural Resource/Water Chair

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### **Calendar:**

**Friday, December 16, 2005**, Noon – 1:30, **Natural Resources/Water Committee**. EBMUD Bldg, 375 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland. Mezzanine Training Conference Room TRC 2. Doug Wallace of EBMUD Bay-Delta Consensus Team will speak on CALFED now and in the future. For more info contact [natural\\_resources@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:natural_resources@lwvba-ca.org)

**Wednesday, December 14, 2005**, 12:15 – 2pm, **IN Committee North**, Berkeley at 1414 University Ave. LWVBAE office. Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogrand: [programvp@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:programvp@lwvba-ca.org) Please RSVP

### **SAVE THIS DATE:**

**Saturday, February 25, 2006**, 9 am until noon, at the South San Francisco Learning Center, 520 Tamarack Lane, SSF. The San Mateo County League Day, "**Hetch Hetchy Water System**: The status of the rebuild and the challenges ahead" with Guest Speaker, Arthur Jensen, General Manager, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA). There will be more information next month.

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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)