



THE VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE**
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President: Doris Fine

November, 1998

Editor: Bob Hawley

The LWV Bay Area Study: Local Decisions/Regional Impacts

What turns a local land use decision into a regional problem? Join the committee for the new Bay Area League study and help us all to a better understanding of the local roots of many regional problems.

In LWVBA's new study, we are asked to look at the ramifications of five specific kinds of local decisions and follow the complex problems they create: traffic congestion, a critical deficit of workforce housing, concentration of social problems in inner cities' neighborhoods and older suburbs, and depletion and degradation of environmental resources.

Let's find out where Albany, Emeryville and Berkeley fit into these pictures. Do their land use decisions create these kinds of impacts on other jurisdictions or do they suffer damage from the decisions of others? or some of each? What happens when local governments zone for high-end residential uses? When they limit densities near job opportunities, urban services and transit? When they subsidize high volume retail to get more sales tax revenues? When they approve new commercial/industrial projects that return property tax and fee income? When they attract job-producing economic growth and restrict production of new housing affordable for the workers? When they bow to NIMBYism? Are there local examples?

This is a two-year study. Our committee will choose two or three of the problem questions and suggested changes for discussion at UNITs next spring, taking up the others in the fall. Consensus questions will come in January/February of 2000. In gaining understanding of the local roots of regional problems and how things might change, we can give guidance to LWVBA in strengthening its regional

-(continued on Page 9)

Meet the Candidates, 1998

Every Thursday in October starting at 7 pm, our video crew filmed a candidates' forum on B-TV, Channel 25. Candidates for Berkeley City Council, Mayor, Rent Board and School Board were seen by viewers, their responses to audience questions were heard, and the public could consider their qualifications for office. Our moderator, *Lessly Wikle*, set the tone with her gracious demeanor; and her quiet charm eased the candidates to follow our time lines. The production crew led by *Jill Martinucci*, included *Masako Yamada*, *Neil Goldstein* and *Kay Schwartz*. *Phoebe Watts* and her team made the arrangements and served as timekeepers and question sorters.

In addition, at the request of the Berkeley PTA District Council and the King PTA, we moderated two School Board candidates' forums. Our thanks to *Mim Hawley* and *Regina Minudri* for conducting meetings. We also moderated a forum for mayoral candidates for the Lawrence Berkeley Lab. *Fran Packard* handled the questions, and again *Phoebe Watts'* team took care of all the arrangements. Finally, in Albany, we co-sponsored a meeting with candidates for City Council and School Board, moderated by *Mim Hawley*, with arrangements by *Ruth Ganong* and *Jean Safir*.

Members of LWVBAE also participated in candidate forums for the offices of County School Superintendent, AC Transit Director, and 9th Congressional District Representative. These forums were arranged by the Oakland League, and tapes were made available for replay on cable channels in our communities.

All of the televised programs, those we produced and those produced by Oakland, will be replayed the week-end before the election on Channel 25. Check with the office for the full schedule.

-Doris Fine

President's Message The League In Action

The issue was amending Berkeley's Master Plan to permit a 17-acre, off-leash dog park within the Cesar Chavez Park. For almost a year, the League has been appearing before public boards and commissions and writing letters to the effect that restricting 17 acres of this public resource to be used by dogs is not only inappropriate but is a violation of the Master Plan.

On September 22, at the insistence of the League, the Council held a public hearing on the issue. What a pleasure it was to watch League members speak! First, *Lenora Young* pointed out that it would be dishonoring the memory of Cesar Chavez to allow the park dedicated to him to be known as the Dog Park. Then *Pat Wadleigh* noted that many dog owners already disregard the leash law and allow their pets to roam freely over the area; in effect, she suggested that the Council is legitimizing their behavior at the expense of those who obey the law. *Eva Bansner* criticized the process the Council was following in that it did not include consideration of alternative uses of the waterfront area, a precious piece of the Eastshore Park attained after years of persistence on the part of environmentalists. *Jill Martinucci* cautioned the Council that allowing the off-leash area to exist for a year as an experiment would never work: no one would have the courage to terminate the project. She also pointed out that the dog park at Pt. Isabel provides a clear example of the incompatibility of people and roaming dogs sharing one area. The danger to elderly walkers and small children was also pointed out by *Babette Maccoby* whose husband had been knocked over by a dog. Finally, *Lois Brubeck*, speaking on behalf of the LWVBAE summarized these arguments and urged the Council not to amend the Master Plan.

We did not prevail. On October 6, in a 5-4 vote taken in the early morning hours after a long meeting and without members of the public present, the Council voted to proceed with the dog park.

What is the lesson? This experience of Berkeley's version of political activism shows how an organized interest group can take advantage of a major public resource for private use. Not only will the taxpayers have to cover the expenses of maintenance and security, but citizens now and in future generations will be deprived of the pleasure offered by this wonderful, peaceful open space.

During the trial year, as the Council studies the impact of this unfortunate decision, we will be

watching: What measures will be used? Who will collect, analyze and review the data? Will only licensed dogs be admitted? What will be the city's costs for the study as well as the needed security and maintenance?

The League has taken many difficult stands. Unlike the Congress, we support paying our UN dues. Unlike the Governor, we support affirmative action. Here at the local level, unlike the Council, we support the use of Cesar Chavez Park, a valuable public resource, for its intended recreational and educational purposes.

-Doris

Board Briefs

The Board met on Wednesday morning, October 7, at the South Berkeley Branch Library. Reports were given about the many activities relating to the coming elections. Particular mention was made of the videos made for Berkeley's TV channel. Those already finished are of very high quality.

The housing study has begun and interviews are being conducted in each of our three cities. The oral history project is also under way and good progress has been made to complete it.

A policy on diversity is being developed.

A new copying machine was installed in the office on October 6.

It was moved to grant *Doris Maslach* a leave of absence until after the election.

-*Violet Feinauer*, Secretary

Alameda County High School Poll Worker Program

The county Registrar of Voters has hired a coordinator, *Karen Carlson-Olson*, to work with the high schools in selecting students to serve as clerks on election day. Special training will be provided and students will receive a regular stipend (\$72) as precinct officers. The program is intended to ensure that all polling places are fully staffed and to encourage young people to participate in our electoral system.

-*Doris Fine*

Solano Stroll, 1998

On a beautiful Sunday in September, the League booth at the Solano Stroll was a great success. We registered 33 new voters and had over 20 winning contestants-both parents and children-in our Elections Trivia Quiz which was designed by *Phoebe Watts* and *Carol Voisin*. Many thanks to the following for making this outing a League plus: *Lois Brubeck, Louetta Erlin, Doris Fine, Mary Hampton, Mim Hawley, Helene Lecar, Elizabeth Lichtenberg, Doris Mendell, Ginette Polak, Jean Safir, Carol Voisin, Phoebe Watts, and Lessly Wikle.*

-*Lassie Ulman, Community Affairs VP*

Housing Study October Meeting

The Housing Study Committee will meet Monday, October 26, at the home of *Suzanne Adams*, at 7:30 pm. On the agenda: Reports of interviews with the three City Managers, adoption of general interview schedule, and decisions for next steps. The committee currently has 14 participants and three observers, and is still open for further memberships. Our November meeting will be on Monday, November 23. Contact me if you are interested.

-*Suzanne Adams, Chair, Housing Study Committee*

Early Literacy Volunteer Program

If you like children and want to help a few special ones improve their reading skills, there is no more rewarding way to do it than to volunteer through the League's Early Literacy Program at Malcolm X Elementary School. It takes a commitment of only an hour or so per week of your time. The children are a delight. The staff are more appreciative of our volunteers' contributions than one can imagine.

If you would like to try it, phone Gretchen Vajda, grade 2 teacher and the Coordinator of our Early Literacy Volunteer Program at Malcolm X school, at 644-6313. You'll love it!

-*Sally Severance, one of the volunteers*

Fall Membership Meeting A Big Success

Our Fall Membership Meeting took place on Thursday evening, September 24, at the Northbrae Community Church. A delicious and generous supper was catered by *Shai's Delicatessen*, and 54 members enjoyed the food and the socializing that went with it. During the brief "business" meeting, members spoke about the wide array of projects our League has under way and encouraged more members to get involved. A grand total of 69 people signed in, and this included 7 members of sister Leagues in Oakland and Piedmont who had been invited to join us.

The speaker for the evening was *Pat Engelhard*, the director of Children and Family Services for Alameda county, who spoke to us about her work in the juvenile justice system with children who have suffered abuse or neglect. She gave us a very detailed, and often disturbing, portrait of the operations of her agency and of the closely related court system that "cares for" such children. This provided an enormous amount of material to start us working on the Statewide consensus UNITS that took place in early October.

Thanks to all who helped make the meeting such a success: first, to *Pat Engelhard* for her stirring presentation; to *Ruthann Taylor* for all the arrangements (What would we do without her?!) and her committee who helped set up and clean up, to *Mia Gittlin* for making the name tags and to *Mari Fertig* for helping at check-in, to everyone who brought flowers for the tables, and to all the members who shared with the rest of us their excitement about the projects and programs they're working on. Last, but not least, thanks to the office volunteers and Board members who called everyone on our membership list about the meeting.

Hold that thought! We are starting to plan our next membership meeting, the "Annual Meeting", which will take place next year on June 5, 1999. Save the date!

-*Jean Safir, Program VP*

League Calendars	League Calendars
	1999
Pocket Calendars \$2.25 --	Wall Calendars \$3.00
Buy them for yourself,	
or for gifts or stocking stuffers.	
Available at the League office.	

Donors Through September, 1998

author of Japanese Film Directors.

General Fund

<i>Lisa Alfert</i>	<i>Mary Friedman</i>
<i>Diana Bilorsky</i>	<i>Grace Gildersleeve</i>
<i>Phyllis Bischof</i>	<i>Ruth Knutson</i>
<i>Pat Bradley</i>	<i>Adelia Lines</i>
<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Therese Pipe</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Todd Smith</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	

Foundation

<i>Lisa Alfert</i>	<i>Adelia Lines</i>
<i>Mari Fertig</i>	<i>Janine Rosenzweig</i>
<i>Ruth Knutson</i>	

Members and Membership

A hearty welcome to the eight new members and to one member who has rejoined us.

<i>Liz Berlin</i>	<i>Linda R. McKinney</i>
<i>Diana Bilorsky</i>	<i>Ed Nathan</i>
<i>Alice S. Hamburg</i>	<i>Elizabeth A. Springston</i>
<i>Aune Hendrickson</i>	<i>Renate Tubman</i>
<i>Ruth Knutson</i> (rejoined)	

Several of the above new members joined us following our very successful (if one does not count a blown fuse) orientation meeting on Saturday, September 19. My thanks to President *Doris Fine* and members of the Executive Committee: *Marion Luten*, *Jean Safir*, and *Jo Ann Price*; LWVC Board member and former LWVBAE President *Pat Wadleigh*; former LWVBAE President *Mim Hawley*; *Winnie McLaughlin*, prior Membership Chair; and *Joan Strasser*, new member in 1997. Thanks to all for your help, support, and encouragement.

Congratulations to *Frances H. Townes* for receiving the Berkeley Community Fund's 1998 award for individual achievement. *Frances* joins such luminaries as former chancellor Tien of UC Berkeley, recognized for their contributions to our community. We are proud of you, *Frances*!

Glad to see you up and about: *Ruth Ganong*, *Karen Nelson*, *Jo Ann Price*, and *Marj Rubinow*.

Audie Bock, daughter of League member *Felicia Bock*, met recently deceased film director Akira Kurosawa in 1977 and worked with and for him as his interpreter. Audie is a teacher of Cinema and the

Mike Brodsky, recent top graduate from UCB and Mayor of Albany, is now studying law at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Sylvia McLaughlin, long-time LWVBAE member, is an environmental activist, weight lifter, savior of historical buildings and redwood trees, home keeper, gardener, grower of roses, and political activist, but not necessarily in that order. *Sylvia* was profiled in the Fall 1998 issue of Cal Neighbors as having become a legend in her own time. She was one of three local women who founded SAVE THE BAY. For more than 40 years she has worked with the League, city officials and administrators of UCB to preserve, enlarge, and improve both the natural and architectural beauty of the area where she has lived since the late 1940's.

LWVBAE members thank you, *Sylvia*, for your dedication and devotion to restoring, maintaining and improving our shared environment.

Our condolences to the families and friends of deceased members *Sondra Kennedy* (August, 1998) and *Milton Vonier* (September, 1998).

A Poem

In a speech at the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said, in a tone of admonishment, that the feminist pioneers who fought for suffrage would be amazed and outraged by the negligence of the millions of eligible women who did not vote in the 1996 elections. Once muzzled by law, today's women silence themselves.

Our Poet President has written to that neglect:
 "You say the little efforts that I make will do no good;
 They never will prevail to tip the hovering scale
 Where justice hangs in balance.
 Well, I don't think I thought they would!
 But I am prejudiced beyond debate
 In favor of my right to choose which side
 Shall feel the stubborn ounces of my weight!
 I voted. Did you?"

Will YOU be able to say "I voted" on Tuesday, November 3?

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chair

Leaguers Who Made The LWVBAE Pros & Cons Happen

Sincere thanks are due to the following LWVBAE members who spent many hours researching, writing, proofing, inputting to the computer, and composing layout for the LWVBAE Pros & Cons non-partisan information on local ballot measures for the November 3, 1998, General Election. The LWV of Berkeley Foundation Education Fund paid for the 700 issues distributed throughout Berkeley and Emeryville. Albany has no measures on the ballot this November.

Writers

Suzanne Adams *Ann Crowe*
Eva Bansner *Doris Maslach*
Eloise Bodine *Jo Ann Price*
Lois Brubeck *Lenora Young*

Proofers

Doris Fine *Jean Safir*
Marion Luten *Lassie Ulman*
Ginette Polak *Phoebe Watts*
Jo Ann Price

Proof Readers

Peggy Anne Davis *Evelyn Light*

Desk Top Composer

Elizabeth Lichtenberg

-*Jo Ann B. Price*, Pros & Cons Project Manager

Action Update

September - October 1998

The League recently took a number of Action measures at the national and local levels. During September, thanks to *Charlotte Bernardin*, LWVUS Action Alerts were received and responded to on the following matters:

- Urgent payment of US arrears to the UN.
- National Wetlands Call-In Day to Vice President Al Gore (to protect wetlands)
- Health Care Legislation in the Senate - S.1890, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998 (companion bill to H.R.3605 that was narrowly defeated in the House in late July).

At the local level in Berkeley, the following issues were addressed:

- Dog Park at Cesar Chavez Park on the north waterfront. The League once again opposed this proposal at the September 22 public hearing and sent a letter to that effect. Another letter was sent for the October 6 Council meeting urging the Council to consider the many opposing views brought out at the public hearing.
- Proposed amendments to Regulation 1280 of the Rent Stabilization Board. At the September 17 Rent Board meeting, the League representative read a letter pointing out the reasons why there should not be a rush to remove this regulation which provides fairness to the owners of historically low-rent properties. The Board agreed and will look into it further.
- City of Berkeley FY 2000 and FY 2001 Budget Process Guidelines and Procedures. At the September 16 meeting of the Citizens Budget Review Commission, the League voiced its wholehearted approval of the City Manager's proposal to the City Council that it adopt a 2-year budget process and a time line for the budget cycle. LWVBAE subsequently sent a letter to the Mayor and Council for the October 6 meeting urging their adoption of the CM's proposal and their establishment of policy goals and objectives to guide this process. However, the matter was held over to the November 10 meeting.

November 3 Election Information

Complete election information is available on our home page: <http://home.pacbell.net/lwvbae>. Lost your local Pros & Cons? They are on line, and links to the LWVC's home page will lead you to the state Pros & Cons, and much more. Our webmaster, *Bill Chapman*, has added links to all sorts of fascinating voter information; and you will find all the election results posted online as well. CHECK IT OUT.

-*Doris Fine*

-*Jo Ann B. Price*, Action VP

FINANCIAL REPORTS TO MEMBERS

For Fiscal Year July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE**FUND BALANCES**

Fund	Balance 7/1/97	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 6/30/98
General Fund*	\$52,723	\$45,331	\$42,769	\$55,286
Tribute Fund	[5,139 reported]	50	268	5,021
Revised	5,239			
Endowment	37,600	1,500	0	39,100
TOTAL Funds	\$95,562	\$46,881	\$43,037	\$99,407

* General Fund includes Current Operating Fund, Lease Deposit, and Misc. Assets.

COMBINED ASSETS

	on 7/1/97	Increase/(decrease)	on 6/30/98
Checking Accounts [rev]	\$10,272	\$ (5,555)	\$ 4,717
Money Market Fund	52,616	(21,194)	31,422
Benham GNMA Fund	28,420	2,324	30,744
AmerCent. EQ Growth	0	30,864	30,864
Other Assets*	4,596	(2,936)	1,660
TOTAL Assets	\$95,904	\$ 3,503	\$99,407
Debts	(342)	342	0
FUND BALANCES	\$95,562	\$ 3,845	\$99,407

* Other Assets includes Stamps, Post Office Deposit, Lease Deposit, Computer value, etc.

*GINETTE POLAK, Treasurer***LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY FOUNDATION****Changes in Fund Balances**

	Balance 7/1/97	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 6/30/98
Unrestricted	\$ 6,352	\$ 4,803	\$ 6,263	\$ 4,892
Traynor Fund	47,558	8,223	180	55,601
TOTAL FUNDS	\$53,910	\$13,026	\$ 6,443	\$60,493

Changes in Combined Assets

	Assets 7/1/97	Increase or (Decrease)	Assets 6/30/98
Checking Accounts	\$ 4,881	\$ (1,641)	\$ 3,240
Benham GNMA	46,760	(46,760)	0
Benham Money Market	2,269	8,356	10,625
AmerCent. Income/Growth	0	29,435	29,435
AmerCent. Balanced	0	17,193	17,193
FUND BALANCES	\$53,910	\$ 6,583	\$60,493

Heidi Gillies, Treasurer



Publications Corner



Bay Area Monitor, July/August, 1998

This issue of the Monitor, entitled "Bright Ideas", reports responses to questions regarding problems facing local and regional governments and agencies. Some solutions are also described.

Some of the problems listed are familiar, such as lack of coordinated planning among regional agencies, the need for affordable housing and jobs near housing, the need to reduce pollutants, to prevent urban sprawl, to protect agricultural land, to develop a master plan for regional transit, as well as the need to increase local revenues without allowing that need to dominate land use planning.

Solutions reported showed efforts to solve some of the problems. In the area of transportation, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has provided funds to public agencies for electric vehicles, while the Santa Clara Valley Manufacturers Association and light rail lines offer free transit service to and from work, and free taxi service if an employee needs to return home before the end of the work day.

Employees at Lockheed-Martin are offered free transportation to and from work in a joint program between the company, transit agencies, and the City of Livermore. Companies view the encouragement of public transit use as a benefit because it decreases the number of parking spaces needed, which frees up the land for other uses.

An inter-regional partnership has been formed between several Bay Area and adjacent counties and their cities to end inter-area "turf wars."

In the area of job training, Oakland and San Francisco have programs to train youth. Oakland's program is a joint undertaking with the Port of Oakland and the Youth Employment Partnership which teaches undertrained students how to clean up lead toxins in the old warehouses at the former Naval Supply Center. Upon completion of the program, students receive State Certificates of Lead Abatement. The area will subsequently be used for an industrial rail terminal and cleaned, used wood will be used to build low-cost housing in Oakland. In San Francisco, the local Bar Association and the Unified School District have developed a law academy to train bright but under-achieving students to become paid interns in the city's law offices.

The need for increased housing in the Santa Clara

Valley is being addressed by the Santa Clara County Planning staff and the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group through the formation of the Housing Action Coalition and Housing Leadership Council. There are more than 200 organizations and individuals providing grassroots support through education and advocacy for relatively affordable housing for working families in the area. Efforts are being made for first time home buyers to reduce down payments, and to create a new type of mortgage which gives credit for purchasing a home in low/moderate income, transit accessible neighborhoods. The county is streamlining the permit process for new construction.

The Bay Area Monitor is a bi-monthly review of regional issues published by the Bay Area LWV. Pick up a copy at our office, contact the Bay Area League at (510) 283-7093, or read it on their website at www.lwvba-ca.org.

-Lenora Young, Publications Chair Berkeley City- Wide Collaborative for Youth

Meeting since March 1996, the Collaborative aims to be a vehicle of communication between the individuals or providers that serve youth and to create a seamless system of services to youth in order to improve outcomes and is currently working to develop a comprehensive system of case management to avoid duplication of services. It is the umbrella organization to the Healthy Start school sites. The Collaborative deals not only with getting grants for Healthy Start programs, progress at the sites, and problems of finding ways to sustain the programs after the grants run out. Meetings also address such issues as extended day care funding, and plans for outreach to help those eligible for Medical or Healthy Families (the recently instituted insurance program to provide comprehensive health care for low income children). In recent months, presentations have been heard from teachers involved in Berkeley schools' conflict resolution and youth mediation programs, and the principal of East Campus.

The full group of the Collaborative numbers about 50, and has representation from the schools, city and county agencies, parents, UCB, and community-based organizations, The United Way and the League of Women Voters. It meets monthly on the fourth Monday from 4-5:30 pm at the North Berkeley Senior Center. -Lois Brubeck, Education

Know Your Bay Area Day, Saturday, September 26, 1998

Local Leagues Share Regional Issues at the Bay Area League's Fall Meeting

Better connections among transit systems, mixed use development and the need for affordable housing, ecosystem protection and preserving open space—all these regional issues are on local leagues' agendas. At Know Your Bay Area Day, held in the PG&E theater in San Francisco and hosted by the San Francisco League, we saw slides and heard from Leagues all around the Bay.

North San Mateo County and Eden Area Leagues, from both sides of the Bay, told of their continuing efforts to retain the transbay terminal and to bring Caltrain into downtown San Francisco. Both are needed steps for creating a transit hub that links Caltrain, BART, AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit.

South San Mateo County and Palo Alto Leagues joined forces to support a mixed use development on Stanford land. The project will now go ahead, having survived a lawsuit filed by the city of Menlo Park to stop it. *Mim Hawley* described the transit-oriented, mixed use development around the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station.

Central San Mateo County League is watching the proposal for a new runway for San Francisco Airport. Critical will be balancing the safety issues for the airport with mitigating the loss of Bay surface by returning diked salt ponds to wetlands and open water.

The Los Gatos-Saratoga-Monte Sereno League is fighting a proposed luxury residential-golf course development that threatens the Bear Creek ecosystem.

Many Bay Area Leagues are actively supporting local ballot measures. The Marin and Sonoma County Leagues described propositions to raise gasoline sales taxes for transportation linked with land use measures.

The five Leagues in Santa Clara County are working for passage of an Article 34 election that would permit cities to build public housing in a county desperate for lower-income housing. (Article 34 of the State Constitution requires approval of voters for such housing.)

The San Jose-Santa Clara League is supporting an Urban Growth Boundary for Milpitas, and expects similar action for the City of San Jose soon.

A delicious lunch was followed by the kick-off to LWVBA's study: Local Decisions/Regional Impacts where we will be looking at issues similar to the ones we had just heard about, and ways that Leagues can be more effective in forging local and regional solutions. For more about the study and how to get involved, see the article on Page 1.

-*Yvonne San Jule*, LWVBA representative

Environmental Concerns Meetings

East Bay Regional Parks District:

THE FIRE BREAK:

Fire Safety & Public Lands

Jerry Kent, assistant general manager of Operations for the East Bay Regional Park District, will present a slide show and lead discussion on the Fire Break, which is controversial with many rangers and environmentalists.

Monday, November 9, 1998, 7:15 p.m.

Contacts: *Eva Bansner*

Gail Schickele

-*Gail Schickele*, Environmental Concerns

Speaker Series Program

Fire Safety:

Another Viewpoint

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 1-3 pm

WHERE: Albany Public Library
1247 Marin Avenue, Albany
Edith Stone Room

SPEAKER: Dr. Robert Stebbins, professor emeritus, UCB Zoology Department

Dr. Stebbins will include slides to illustrate and emphasize some of his concerns. He will address many of the same issues to be covered by Jerry Kent on Monday evening, November 9, at the Environmental Concerns meeting, but from a somewhat different perspective.

-*Jean Safir*, Program VP

Bay- Delta Water Issues

CALFED Bay-Delta water issues were the subject of a talk by LWVC Water Director Roberta Borgonovo at the September 21 Environmental Concerns meeting.

The League position supports measures that promote management and development of water resources in ways beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality appropriate for the intended use. "Our water position is a strong environmental position," Borgonovo said. "Its principles espouse good water management policies for protecting the environment and ensuring responsible urban and agricultural use. We want to link land use planning to water resource management, emphasize conservation and price water development at true cost," she explained.

League focus, which is also the emphasis of many environmental and fishing groups, has been twofold: comprehensive ecosystem restoration and strong demand-side solutions to water supply reliability (conservation, recycling, conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources, and environmentally and socially sound water transfers to meet water quality or habitat restoration needs).

Borgonovo is on the Bay Delta Advisory Council, the public advisory body to CALFED, a consortium of state and federal agencies that administrate water in the state, charged with developing a long-term solution to protect the Bay Delta. CALFED objectives are ecosystem restoration; water supply reliability; levee stability; and water quality. Important issues include water efficiency (conservation, reclamation, etc.); water transfers; watershed management; finance; institutional and legal assurances; water quality; system reliability; and ecosystem restoration. While there is broad agreement about ecosystem restoration and other CALFED objectives, there is disagreement on how to do it. Surface storage is especially controversial. "If you continue to take water out of the system, you'll never be able to sustain the ecosystem," Borgonovo said. "Surface storage changes timing and temperature of the water flow."

There are more than 5,000 dams in California. About 83% of the developed water supply goes to agriculture and 17% to urban. Most of the once plentiful wetlands are gone due to agricultural and urban land use changes. "Its very difficult to take water back from those who developed it," Borgonovo said. The environmental community wants to preserve

the economic base of agriculture, and some environmental and urban groups say this can be done without leaving all of the developed water in agriculture. Borgonovo said creative water management might include agricultural easements, transfer of water in dry years, and financial incentives for agricultural conservation practices.

For references on water issues see the LWV Natural Resources Water Position listed in "Action on Issues: Guidelines for Local Leagues." For a world view on water issues, see Tapped Out (Welcome Rain Publishers, 1998) by former Illinois Senator Paul Simon, Director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. For more information call Roberta Borgonovo. To get on the CALFED mailing list call 916-657-2666.

-Gail Schickele, Environmental Concerns

LWV Bay Area Study: Local Decisions/Regional Impacts

(-continued from Page 1)

positions so that together we may take action on behalf of better regional planning and governance.

An organizing meeting for the study committee will be at *Jean Safir's* home on Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 pm. Call *Jean* at 524-9088 if you want to be on the committee and/or will come to the meeting.

-Yvonne San Jule, LWVBA Representative

Copier Available

LWVBAE has just acquired a new office copier. As a result, we now have a surplus copier needing a new home. It is a Canon PC-RE and has the features that a new machine costing \$600 at a discount store has. Please call the office and ask for me to learn more about it.

-Marion Luten, Administration VP

League Calendars League Calendars

1999

Pocket Calendars \$2.25 -- Wall Calendars \$3.00

Buy them for yourself,
or for gifts or stocking stuffers.
Available at the League office.

CALENDAR

October

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

- 26 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm Housing Study (Adams)
- 28 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee (Fine)

November

- 3 Tue. 7 am-8 pm **ELECTION DAY**
- 4 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (Fine)
- 6 Fri. 4 pm Deadline for Dec.-Jan. *VOTER* LWVBAE Office (B. Hawley)
- 9 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns Meeting (Bansner)
- 11 Wed. **OFFICE CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY**
- 12 Thurs. 1-3 pm Speakers Series: Fire Safety Albany Library (Kunkel)
- 18 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee (Price)
- 19 Thurs. 7:30 pm Local Actions/Regional Impacts Study (Safir)
- 23 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm Housing Study (Adams)
- 25 Wed. 9 am-noon Executive Committee (Fine)
- 25 Wed. (1 pm) through. 27 Fri. **OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

December

- 2 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (Fine)

June 5, 1999

LWVBAE ANNUAL MEETING (Save The Date)

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (Safir)

9:30 am-1 pm

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3



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