



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 59 No 6 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* June 2016

REMINDER

ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING

Featured speaker:

FRAN DAVID
Hayward City Manager

**“The Challenges of
Affordable Housing
in the East Bay”**

JUNE 4, 2016 (Sat.)

San Lorenzo Library
395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Schedule

Noon – 12:30 - Registration

12:30 pm – Speaker

1:30 pm – League Business Meeting

2:30 pm – Adjourn

During the League Business Meeting, members will elect new board members for 2016-17, take action on the budget and give directions to the Board.

Questions and/or rsvp, contact suzbarba@comcast.net or call 510-538-9678.

Please bring May VOTER (Annual Meeting Kit) to meeting or download from website www.lwvea.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Soon, League members will be mailed a notice and invoice to renew their annual dues to support the League’s work. The Board approved continuing to keep our dues at \$50—the lowest among Alameda County leagues.

We send \$60 of our membership dues to national, state and the Bay Area leagues, to support the Leagues’ effort to monitor, educate and advocate on vital legislation on important issues that impact you and your community.

How can we pay three levels of League a total of \$60 when our dues are only \$50? We subsidize our dues from donations from our generous members and successful fundraising events.

Why do we continue to subsidize our membership dues? Because we don’t want the cost of our dues to be a barrier to those who want to join the League but think they cannot afford higher dues.



Please make out your check when you receive your invoice so that it doesn’t slip to the bottom of your “things to do” pile of good intentions.

Member support of the League through payment of dues goes a long way to ensure that the League will meet its mission to educate members and votes on important issues at the regional, state and national levels.

PRESIDENTS REPORT by Nancy Van Huffel

A Letter to Board Members:



My term as President will be ending this next month. As I leave office, I wanted to express my appreciation for being allowed to be your President. It has been a wild and wonderful ride. This past year has been one of the best for me in my twenty-five years of service on the Board.

I have been overwhelmed and amazed at how well we all have worked together as a team. It is extremely satisfying to see new, strong leaders emerging and the positive future of our League passed into their hands. Each and every Board Member has demonstrated extraordinary generosity and commitment through your willingness to “step up” without being asked on both small and large tasks, engaging fully in our discussions with intelligence and passion, and giving unselfishly of your time and resources. Your dedicated and open communication has challenged all of us to grow in our perspectives; and expand our intellectual, political, and emotional horizons.

While I recognize that I can be pretty focused when we are doing projects and conducting business, please understand how much I appreciate the efforts and perspectives you always bring to our projects and policy development. I so value and benefit from your very presence and intelligent input. Thank you for knowing my intent and ignoring my delivery when we were in the thick of discussions and project implementation. Even on the days I fail to express it, I so deeply appreciate each and every one of you.

Thank you for making this one of the most accomplished and productive years of our League and of my Presidency.

We all have lives filled with so many other activities and demands beyond the League: family, work, friends, and other volunteer opportunities. Despite this, you gave unselfishly and fully to all our programs and activities...and often without my ever asking. You saw the need and met it with a smile and willing heart.

A special thank you to those of you that have served on the Executive Committee for all the extra time and leadership you have put in that has helped shape our League and to move it forward. Your experience, skills, and knowledge have helped our new Board Members grow into their responsibilities more fully and more quickly; and made their experience on the Board a positive and supported one.

To all of you on the current Board and to the dozens of Board members with whom I have served through the years, thank you. Thank you for the privilege of working and serving with you. Thank you for your own service and for your commitment to the voters of the Eden Area.

May our League continue to flourish and to serve as a respected, non-partisan source of voter information and unbiased issue analysis for all of the Eden Area long into the future.

BOARD BRIEFS May 23, 2016

- **Annual Meeting** – Finalized plans for Annual Meeting, June 4 at San Lorenzo Library.
- **LWVEA Retreat** – Reviewed plans for LWVEA Retreat on July 23 from 9 to noon. Location TBD.
- **Voter Service** – Reported that voter registration at BART stations and Farmers Markets was successful. Registered 75 new voters.
- **Laguna Vista HOA Election Services** – Successfully completed election services for a new homeowners group.
- **Debate Watch for President and Vice President** – The dates will be 9/26, 10/4, 10/8 and 10/19. League will co-sponsor and facilitate these debates with the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo Libraries.
- **Voter's Edge** - New League site operating for candidates and voter information.
- **Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)** - CRIL has requested a Pro and Con presentation on June 1 of the June 4 ballot measures.
- **Affidavit Reporting Changes** – Discussed the use of new reporting forms to document the servicing of 70 sites in the Eden Area.
- **Nominating Committee** – Accepted report indicating Carolyn Darcey, Terry Gillory and Janice Friesen have agreed to serve on the board for 2016-17 if elected. Christine Frick agreed to serve off-board.
- **LWV Bay Area Convention** – Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young attended the convention and reported on the event. LWV Bay Area will continue to focus on

Transportation and Climate Change and add Housing for their advocacy and education priorities.

- **Gifts for Speakers** – Discussed numerous ideas. No consensus. Item was tabled for additional information and decision next meeting.
- **LWVUS Convention June 2016** – Recommended our representative vote for voting representation in Congress for residents of Washington D.C.
- **BART Bond** – It is likely there will be a bond measure for infrastructure and safety improvements for BART on the November ballot. LWVEA will consider doing a pro and con presentation on this issue.
- **High School Voter Education Program** – LWVEA and the Registrar of Voters Office conducted a voter registration drive at Castro Valley High School on May 11 during lunchtime. Plans are to do the same for other high schools before the November elections.
- **County Housing Bond** – The County \$500 million Housing Bond will be on the November ballot. Estimated cost is \$12 per @100,000 of assessed value (not market value). Doesn't affect commercial property.
- **Next Board Meeting** - **The next regular board meeting will be August 22. On June 4 we have the Annual Meeting and July 23 the board holds its Retreat.**



LWVEA Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Monday at 5:45 pm. Contact LWVEA@aol.com for agenda.

Plan Bay Area Update (Excerpts from [Greenbelt Alliance](#).)

This summer, the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission hosted public workshops in all nine Bay Area counties to gather input for their just-released scenarios on how to update **Plan Bay Area**.

The last workshop in Alameda County was June 2. However, you can read about the plan and make comments online at planbayarea.org.

Plan Bay Area, adopted in 2013, lays out a vision for how the Bay Area should grow. It calls for creating sustainable, affordable communities and protecting our region's iconic natural and agricultural landscapes from sprawl development. The plan must be updated every four years, and the update process puts some fundamental questions on the table:

- How should our cities and towns grow?
- How important is it to protect our open spaces?
- What more is needed to make sure our communities grow in the best way possible?

To inform these decisions, ABAG and MTC have just released three scenarios—alternative ways the Bay Area *could* grow over the next generation. Included are initial findings about how those scenarios would help a variety of goals such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, increasing housing affordability, and reducing the displacement of low-income residents.

Elements from the three scenarios will be combined into a single “preferred scenario” that will form the blueprint for the updated Plan Bay Area.

According to [Greenbelt Alliance](#), the scenarios have big differences on where

growth occurs. Two of the scenarios call for smart growth focusing 100% of the next generation of growth inside our urban growth boundaries (UGBs) and city limits.

One scenario would develop 565 square miles of natural and agricultural lands outside those UGBs—paving over an area 11 times the size of San Francisco.

The [Greenbelt Alliance](#) believes more is needed in all three scenarios—that they fall short on several critical issues, particularly affordability and mobility.

While each scenario includes a few strategies to provide more homes that are affordable to low-income residents, none are sufficient to tackle the housing affordability crisis and the growing displacement of low-income residents who can't afford to remain in their communities. The preferred scenario should include a full package of policies and investments to increase housing affordability and community stability.

[Greenbelt Alliance](#) believes that the preferred scenario should redirect transportation investments. i.e. Plan Bay Area should ensure that available revenues aren't spent on highway expansion and are instead focused on sustainable transportation options.

After MTC and ABAG staff review the public input they received from the workshops, they will present a preferred scenario for adoption in September 2016.

The Bay Area League is also studying this project and we will put that information in a future VOTER.

What you can do—Read about Plan Bay Area, submit comments online planbayarea.org and sign up to receive email updates on Plan Bay Area.



Alameda County Fracking Ban Moves Forward

By Denis Cuff,

dcuff@bayareanewsgroup.com

(Excerpted from article in Daily Review)

Alameda County took a big step toward becoming the first in the Bay Area to ban fracking as a safeguard to prevent pollution of local groundwater supplies.

In a 6-0 vote that took two years to reach, the Alameda County Planning Commission agreed to recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance banning fracking and other high-intensity oil recovery practices. Supervisors are expected to take up the ban in July.

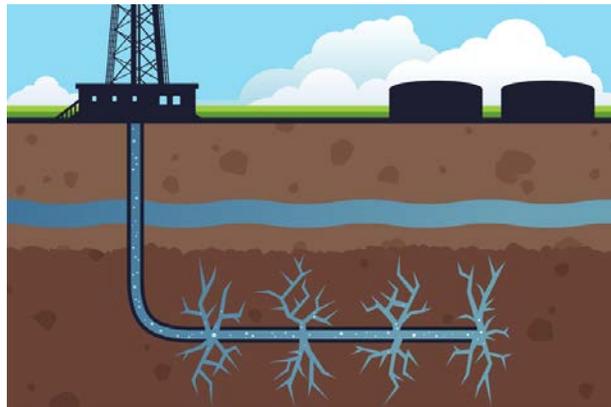
About 50 people packed the commission chambers. Most belonged to an environmental coalition that argued the ban is needed to protect groundwater and air from pollution even if little drilling is done in the county.

Planning commissioners readily agreed they wanted to ban fracking but added they wanted to be careful not to impose other restrictions that would ruin the only oil drilling business in the county, E & B Natural Resources in eastern Livermore.

E & B Natural Resources says it doesn't frack, but the company had expressed concerns the ban could interfere with its operations and how it injects groundwater back deep in the ground after separating it from oil.

Planning commissioners adopted compromise wording that allows water injection as long as the water is not from a surface water source or a shallow groundwater source, and as long as chemicals are not added to the water to increase oil production.

Environmentalists said they are concerned not just with fracking, but with other high-intensity drilling operations such as water flooding that uses pressurized water to coax more crude oil out of geological formations.



Burton Ellison, an E & B geologist, said the 30-barrel-a-day Livermore operation does not threaten local groundwater. The company separates oil from water and then injects the water back into the geological formation where it came from, he said.

Representatives for some eastern Livermore landowners have questioned why a fracking ban is needed if no one in the county fracks.

Rebecca Franke, a Sierra Club representative, said she is concerned fracking could be used to reopen drilling in Livermore areas where wells were active decades ago.

A grass-roots campaign to restrict fracking in California has resulted in bans in Santa Cruz, San Benito and Mendocino counties. The Alameda County ordinance was patterned after the one from San Benito County.

**READ BAY AREA
MONITOR**



<http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

Interesting, well researched articles:

- [Bird's Eye View: Science from the Sky - Drones](#)
- [Keeping Waterways Trash-Free](#)
- [The Cost of Clean Air](#)
- [A Bicycle Built for Two Thousand:](#)

LWV Bay Area Supports Bay Restoration Authority Measure AA

The LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed Measure AA, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 4 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs a 2/3rds voter approval within the region to pass.



This measure will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefitting people, wildlife, and the Bay Area economy. More wetlands will improve the bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water; increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

The measure will expand Bay trails and shoreline access; and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods. LWV Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay and enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shorelines.

LWVUS policies on climate change also support adaptation activities related to climate change, such as sea level rise. League members are encouraged to go to the campaign website:

<http://www.yesonaaforthebay.com> for more information about Measure AA.

Linda Craig, LWVBA President

LWVC Listservs for Children and Family Issues and Advocacy

The LWVC has just established a new group, *Children and Family Issues*, as an electronic replacement for the Working Party for Children, a long standing League Committee devoted to subjects including early care and education, juvenile courts, foster care, and other related issues.

LWVC will be inviting all members currently on the email list to join this Google Group, but encourage any members interested to join and participate in the discussions.

The LWVC has also established LWVC-advocacy, a forum for League action. This Google Group is available for sharing action activities, both statewide and local, and asking for information and advice from other League members. This Google Group is open to all members interested in advocacy. You can join these new listservs [here](#).

Joanne Leavitt, Second VP, Advocacy and Program jleavitt@lwvc.org

VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA
Voter's Edge California, a comprehensive online voting guide, announced a new partnership with California Counts, a collaborative of public media stations across California, to provide the state's citizens with unbiased, in-depth information on candidates and ballot measures down to the local level. They have a partnership with KQED in San Francisco.

Voter's Edge California is a joint project of MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF). A translated version of Voter's Edge California is also available in Spanish, with valuable information on upcoming elections and detailed translations of state and federal data.

To use the tool, voters simply type in their home address and a personalized page is returned with all the contests that will appear on the user's ballot, supplemented with endorsements, funding sources, editorials, news articles, summary information, biographies and more.

Voters can mark their choices and print their ballot to bring to the polls or share with family and friends via social media if desired.

MEMBER SURVEY FOR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



As Board members, we have experienced a great deal of satisfaction in carry out activities that we believe benefit our Eden Area communities. We have accomplished many things this year, but there is more to do—with help from many of our members. We hope that you will volunteer a few hours of your time to help us carry out our League priorities for the coming year.

We have a variety of tasks, both day and evening, involving a few hours for the year, or a few hours each moth that will contribute to the League’s effectiveness and visibility. If you love a challenge as part of a collaborative team, we have interesting jobs to fit your interests, your schedule and your skill-set. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the following:

___YES: Registering voters at BART or Farmer’s Markets (2 hour block of time, teams of 2).

___YES: High School Voter Registration Program (3 hours, daytime, teams of 2).

___YES: Pro & Con Speakers (We provide initial training. Each presentation is approximately an hour, teams of 2)

___YES: Candidate Forums: __Moderators, __Question Sorters, __Timers, __Ushers
2-3 hours each forum.

___YES: Distribute Voter Registration forms in your community (library, post office, real estate offices.) Average one hour/monthly.

___YES: Voter’s Edge Activities: Call. email candidates running for election to encourage them to put information on local website.. We provide training, 4 hours a month during election cycle.

___YES: Membership Activities: Assist with events that help recruit and welcome new members.

___YES: Local Positions Committee: Review LWVEA Positions and make suggestions for update. Training provided. Work in teams.

___YES: Program Team: Suggest, plan and implement forums of interest to League.

___YES: Outreach Team: Contact community groups, churches to discuss LWVEA activities.

___YES: Administrative Tasks: Stuffing envelopes, snail mailing, calling members.

___YES: VOTER NEWSLETTER: Write articles, format pages. Training will be provided.
(Editor says “pretty please!”)

___SORRY: I have no time for volunteer activities, but will continue my support as a member.

Please complete and return it to:

LWVEA VOTER SURVEY. P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Or send us an email and let us know what activities you would like to be involved in.

Questions? 510-528-9678 or suzbarba@comcast.net

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro
 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
 Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:
 League of Women Voters of Eden Area
 Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Dues: Regular \$50,
 2nd member same Household \$25,
 Student \$20

*The League of Women Voters, a
 nonpartisan political organization,
 encourages the informed and active
 participation of the public in
 government and influences public
 policy through education and advocacy.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Eden Area League of Women Voters 2015-2016

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Joanne Young – Voter Services Team Chair
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Aiwa Zelinsky, Program Team Chair
aiyz@comcast.net

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
Jun 4 12-2:30pm	LWVEA Annual Meeting Speaker Fran David on Housing	San Lorenzo Library (see page 1)
June 7 7am-8pm	ELECTION DAY	PLEASE 
Jul 23 time TBD	LWVEA Retreat	TBD
Aug 22 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	(see Board Briefs)
Sept 26 time TBD (evening)	Facilitated TV Debate Watch More info in next VOTER	CV Library San Lorenzo Library
Oct 4 (evening)	Hayward Volunteer Award Dinner	St. Rose Big White Tent

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events, email:
lwvea@aol.com or check out www.LWVEA.org**