



The Voter

Directions to CU Stanislaus/ Stockton Campus

The campus is on the site of the old Stockton Hospital, south of Harding, off of California Street. From California, turn east into the campus. Acacia Court is a white building, second on the right. There is free parking in front of the building.

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On the Water Front

Restoring the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta: Meeting the Delta’s Environmental, Economic and Health Needs

Water exporters and the Governor’s administration claim that protecting fish in the Delta is causing a drought for Central Valley agriculture. Meanwhile, a coalition of local environmental groups files a lawsuit against the Department of Water Resources to stop water deliveries from the Delta altogether.

Delta Vision and Bay Delta Conservation Plan move ahead with plans for a peripheral canal. A local farmer takes out full-page newspaper ads in protest. The Governor announces that the state can build a canal without voter or legislative approval.

A UOP economist bets \$10,000 that the Public Policy Institute of California can’t justify its projections for population growth and desalination costs—projections on which much state water planning is based.

If you would like some

When

Saturday
 January 24th
 10:00—11:30 a.m.

[Membership Discussion to follow: 11:30-12:30]

Where

Acacia Court Bldg
 CSU Stanislaus,
 Stockton Center
 612 E. Magnolia
 Stockton

Speaker

Barbara Barrigan-Parilla

Ms. Barrigan-Parilla, a former Business Development Manager for the Planning and Conservation League in Sacramento, developed a love of the Delta even before moving to Stockton several years ago. Her poems chronicling the changed Delta landscape after the 1996-978 floods have appeared in various literary publications throughout the U.S.

help seeing how all this fits together and what it all means for us in San Joaquin County, come hear Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, Campaign Director for Restore the Delta, speak on “Restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Meeting the Delta’s Environmental, Economic, and Public Health Needs.”

Learn why Restore the Delta believes that the real solutions to the crisis in the Delta, and the water crisis in California, are not the solutions that have been getting the most publicity. Among strategies Restore the Delta advocates are reforming the State Water Resources Control Board, increasing local control of the Delta, and promoting regional self-sufficiency to make other regions of the state less dependent on the Delta to meet their water needs.

For more information on the program, contact Jane Wagner-Tyack, 209-365-1986 or JaneTyack@mac.com.

President's Message — Peaches Ehrich

We are planning an exciting spring. As you will see from this Voter, there is a lot on regarding water. To start this half of our year, we are presenting a program featuring Restore the Delta's Barbara Barrigan-Parilla. Our Delta is the center of much discussion and considerable controversy. You can make sure you are up to date on the issues and possible actions by joining us on January 24th.

Following the water program, we will have a one-hour brainstorming session on membership. As a member, we hope you will share your ideas not only on how to attract new members but on what

programs and activities you think will keep our members involved in the League.

In February, Restore the Delta will be offering an all day symposium on water issues with a particular focus on the Delta. The January program will whet your appetite for the main course that will follow in February.

I personally am looking forward to hearing from newly elected officials on March 7th about what it is really like to campaign for office. I hope you will join us for their insights.

Let Us Hear From You!

State Study Proposal

LWV of Los Angeles is planning to propose a study of the California Prison System at the next LWVC convention this May. They have contacted Leagues around the state asking for their input and support.

Their proposal for the focus of the study won't be finalized until they receive feedback from interested Leagues. However, one suggestion is to emphasize the budget and high costs of incarceration vs. rehabilitation, what alternatives might be more successful than incarceration and the high cost of recidivism because of no rehabilitation is currently happening.

Our Board has discussed the issue briefly and has generally concluded that a prison study is an important and timely topic, particularly in SJ county since we have several prisons here.

We have decided to poll our members to gauge their interest in participating in a prison study. If you are interested, please contact one of our Board members, or email Cate White at blckbrd98@aol.com

Building Our Membership— Brainstorming Session Planned

For a variety of reasons, at least 20 of our members have decided not to renew their League membership this year. Last year we had 97 members. So far this year, we have 76 members—with a few promised renewals yet to be received.

Membership is the life blood of our organization—and we need a transfusion!

Susan Loyko has agreed to spearhead our member recruitment efforts this coming year—and she's asking for your ideas and suggestions on how to get the work out to the community to generate interest in the League. So — we've planned a **Brainstorming Session following the Restore the Delta program on January 24th.** Come to the Water program (from 10:00-11:30 a.m.) and stay for an hour to get to know other League members and offer your ideas on how to attract and keep members to fulfill our voter education and advocacy roles. We welcome you and your ideas. Plan to join the discussion!

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2008-2009

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe and Cate White

Peripheral Canal Discussion Heats Up

Governor Schwarzenegger's Cabinet-level Delta Vision Committee started the New Year with a bang—a controversial proposal to start building a giant canal to divert the Sacramento River around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A Peripheral Canal by any other name...

Mike Chrisman, chair of the Committee and Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency which oversees the department of Water Resources, said the state already has legal authority to build the canal. It doesn't need approval, he said, from lawmakers or California voters.



Others disagree.

Senator Lois Wolk, D-Davis (who also represents San Joaquin County), said in a statement that construction of this canal without a vote or legislative approval is "poor public policy and possibly illegal." Wolk urged the Governor's administration to be "more collaborative" with the Legislature and Delta communities. *The Record*, 1/6/09, B2

Wolk, a leader on Delta issues, said both the Legislature and voters should demand an oversight role. "It's not possible to break ground in 2011 without running roughshod over everybody except the water exporters. It's just the wrong way to approach this." Lawmakers from both parties expressed frustration that they are expected to cooperate on some aspects of Delta restoration but could be denied a role in its most controversial aspect—the canal. "The health of the Delta is too important to bypass the people's representatives," said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. Senate Minority Leader Dave Cogdill, R-Modesto, raised concerns that the plan does not include new dams. *Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee*, 1/6/09, 4A

Rep. McNerney Also Voices Concern

Representative Jerry McNerney (CA-11)

which represents much of San Joaquin County has joined the discussion with a call to return the Delta to health without an 'alternative conveyance.' In a letter from McNerney to President-elect Barack Obama's nominee to serve as chair of the Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley, McNerney encouraged her to advocate for returning the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to health without the establishment of the proposed canal which could destroy the largest estuary on the West Coast. With its management of multiple aspects of Delta land and water, the federal government has a significant role to play in determining the Delta's future.

In addition to voicing concerns about the impact of a canal, McNerney "implored" Sutley to "pursue other water management strategies that would negate the need for an alternative conveyance around the Delta, including water reuse, conservation, recycling, reclamation and perhaps even additional water storage."

About two thirds of Californians get their water from the environmentally troubled Delta.

LWVC and LWVSJC Join the Discussion

Our local League brought its concerns about the Delta visioning process to the state League which responded quickly and more broadly than asked. In a recent letter to Mike Chrisman, LWVC President Janis Hirohama noted that the planning process "appears to have moved very quickly and with minimal transparency and minimal involvement of Delta water interests" toward a canal as the only alternative for dealing with the crisis in the Delta."

The League's letter also advocated setting limits on the amount of water to be

exported through or around the Delta and urges consideration of non-structural strategies for meeting the goal of sustainability of the Delta ecosystem and reliability of water supply.



The Committee's final report was actually a move away from an earlier report issued by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force that stressed two "coequal" goals of providing a reliable water supply and restoring the Delta ecosystem.

The San Joaquin League was particularly concerned about the lack of input from Delta area representatives. A letter to the editor (of *The Record*) prepared by LWVSJC Water Committee Co-Chair Jane Wagner-Tyack notes that a recommendation that Delta governance include local representation is advice that the Governor and Chrisman "seem determined to ignore."

Our letter continues:

"Recent reporting may leave readers with the impression that construction of a peripheral canal is now inevitable. **This is by no means true.** What is clear is that the State is investing an immense amount of time and money planning an expensive structure that is certain to be delayed by litigation. Meanwhile, less expensive strategies for addressing California's water problems do not seem to be receiving serious consideration at the State level.

To counter the pressure being exerted on the State by water export interests in the southern San Joaquin Valley, **we need vigorous local discussion** of alternatives such as conservation and regional self-sufficiency."

California Budget Crisis Continues

On New Years Eve Day, the Governor's Office released his 2009-10 Budget. The Budget projects a deficit in the current year of \$14.8 billion, which, if unaddressed, will grow to almost \$41.8 billion by the end of the 2010 fiscal year.

Noting that he has declared a "fiscal emergency," and called Special Sessions of the Legislature November 6th, December 1st, and December 19th, the Governor says it is imperative that solutions be enacted immediately, as opposed to waiting until the 2009-10 Budget is approved by the Legislature next summer.

The Governor's proposed Budget solutions include many of his earlier proposals as well as provisions put forth by the Democrats on December 19th. Expenditure reductions account for about 42% of

the proposed \$41.8 billion in solutions, followed by new revenues of 34%, "Securitizing the Lottery" to generate \$5 billion, or approximately 12%, and another \$5 billion or 12% through borrowing. Almost \$4.7 billion of the borrowed funds would be through selling Reimbursement Warrants (commonly known as RAW's) in July of 2009.

Most of the reductions would be in the areas of education, health and human services, and the corrections and rehabilitation budget. Savings would also be generated by requiring state employees to take two days furlough per month, beginning February 1, 2009, and the elimination of 2 state holidays.



The major revenue proposals include: A temporary 1.5 cent increase in the sales tax through December 2011, broadening the sales tax to appliance and furniture repair, vehicle repair, veterinary services, amusement and sporting events, and golf, instituting a nickel-per-drink tax, adopting a 9.9% oil severance tax, increasing vehicle registration fees by \$12, and shifting tribal revenues from transportation to the General Fund. Combined these revenue sources would generate about \$17.5 billion over the next 18 months.

Securitizing the Lottery: Salvation or Charade?

At our Kickoff Membership Program in October, Senator Mike Machado said he didn't believe 'securitizing' the lottery was a realistic approach to balancing the State budget. Nevertheless, Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget is relying on increases in lottery revenue to count for 12% of the State's revenue.

Senator Machado's misgivings centered on whether it is possible to raise California's per capita expenditures on the lottery—\$91 in 2007—to the national average of \$189.

The Legislative Analyst's Office seems to agree with Sen. Machado, calling the plan 'risky.' LAO Analyst Jason Dickerson said in May [2008] that the LAO does believe that the lottery can grow by implementing changes in the lottery, such as making the games more enticing by devoting a larger share of

revenue to prizes. But—the LAO "doesn't think it's reasonable to expect sales to double in five to ten years" as the Governor's office does. Instead, the LAO believes a more reasonable forecast is for the lottery to raise its 10-year average growth rate at 4.2% to 6%. (*Rich Saskal, The Bond Buyer, 5/27/08*)

Giving support to those apprehensive about this plan is the fact that ticket sales for the lottery are off about 10 percent compared to a year ago, a drop lottery officials are pinning on a bad economy. But last year's lottery sales were down from the year before.

Lottery spokesman Al Lundeen said a lack of big jackpots so far this fiscal year has likely reduced sales. Lottery officials are hoping to use the falling sales figures to convince voters of the need to change the rules governing the state lottery.

This past spring, Gov. Schwarzenegger floated the idea of 'securitizing' the lottery—essentially selling it to an outside operator who would give a big up-front payoff and further payments down the line. While the LAO's office said that the \$37 billion upfront payment was 'unlikely to come true', their report also noted the lottery was 'underperforming' compared to other states and said changes in the lottery were worth investigating. The Legislature did just that with AB1741, the Lottery Modernization Act. But any additional changes such as actually increasing payouts, seen as essential to raise revenue, would have to go to the voters. (*Malcolm Maclachlan, Capital Weekly, 12/4/08*)

LWVUS Study: National Popular Vote

At its 2008 Convention, League delegates voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President."



ernment achieve these goals and provide that information.

What the Position Means

The League strongly believes that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely "reformed." One "reform" which the League specifically rejects is the voting by electors based on proportional representation in lieu of the present "winner-takes-all" method. Such a system would apportion the electoral votes of a state based on the popular vote in that state. Instead of making the Electoral College more representative, such proportional voting would increase the chance that no candidate would receive a majority in the Electoral College, thereby sending the election of the President to the House of Representatives where each state, regardless of population, would receive only one vote. Election of the President by the House further removes the decision from the people and is contrary to the "one person, one vote" principle. The League also does not support reform of the Electoral College on a state-by-state basis because the League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President.

The Movement against the Electoral College

The most compelling argument against the Electoral College is that it prevents the direct election of the President by popular vote and is, therefore, contrary to modern principles of representative government. Beyond this basic theoretical objection is the very practical objection that the Electoral College system enables candidates who have not received the most votes cast by American voters to become President.

We have seen such an outcome four times in our history. The first time was

the 1824 election which was won by John Q. Adams even though he received fewer electoral votes and fewer popular votes than Andrew Jackson. In 1876, Rutherford B. Hayes beat Samuel J. Tilden by one electoral vote, becoming President despite trailing in the popular vote by a count of 4,288,546 to 4,034,311. In 1888, Benjamin Harrison beat Grover Cleveland with an electoral vote of 233 to 168, despite Cleveland's popular vote margin of 5,534,488 to 5,443,892. Most recently, in the 2000 presidential election, George W. Bush received fewer popular votes than Albert Gore, Jr., but received a majority of electoral votes. The situation was almost reversed in 2004. Although President Bush received more than three million more popular votes than John Kerry, Kerry would have been elected President if Ohio's electoral votes had been cast in his favor.

These circumstances have prompted much discussion on the advisability and feasibility of reforming our election process to eliminate the Electoral College and to elect the President by direct election. This conversation is not new. Over the past 200 years, according to the National Archives, more than 700 proposals have been introduced in Congress to reform or eliminate the Electoral College. Indeed, several joint resolutions were introduced in the current Congress on this issue. The proposals, all introduced in the House of Representatives, were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, where no action has been taken.

Consensus questions and more information on this study will be available in the February Voter.

History of the League Position on the Election of the President

A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in its 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as an essential element of representative government. At the 2002 Convention, the League voted to expand and update its position and came to concurrence on a new position in June 2004. The new position takes into account the entire presidential selection process and supports a process that produces the best possible candidates, informed voters and optimum voter participation. At the 2008 Convention, the delegates voted to adopt the new study on the National Popular Vote.

The League's Position

January 1970, Revised March 1982 and Updated June 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of gov-

Stockton Goes Green

The League of Women Voters has signed on to the Citizen's Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles which says, in part, that global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many solutions which will reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist."



Christine Tien, Deputy City Manager of the City of Stockton and a League member, has provided a summary of the City of Stockton's efforts to 'Go Green.'" Highlights are excerpted below.

California is leading the charge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.. In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law AB 32 mandating that the state reduce its greenhouse emissions 25% by 2020.

. In 2006, Stockton's then Mayor Chavez signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Mayor Chavez was one of the first Mayors in the San Joaquin Valley, if not the first, to sign this agreement. Cities that sign the agreement must commit to reduce climate change.

Why Go Green?

1. Central Valley residents live in one of the most polluted air districts in the nation. We need better indoor and outdoor air quality.
2. Going green makes fiscal sense. Being more energy and water efficient reduces utility and water costs - saving money for everyone—businesses, government agencies, and residents alike.
3. Going green, attracting green companies and having a green collar work force can boost the economy and create career track family wage jobs.

4. The city needs to set a good example for our community. We can't ask the community to go green if we don't do it ourselves.

First Steps

General Plan 2035

In December 2007, Stockton approved its General Plan 2035 which includes many greenhouse gas reduction policies. The new General Plan encourages new subdivisions to use wider sidewalks to create a pedestrian/bike friendly environment. The General Plan's Village concept reduces traffic to other areas of town and encourages people to walk and ride their bikes. Other policies include promoting high residential infill and transit oriented development, and co-location of community facilities. Implementation measures include providing incentives to developers that will reduce the costs of infill development, expediting permitting, and establishing city energy efficiency and performance standards which exceed minimum standards mandated by the State.

Municipal Green Buildings



In January 2008, Stockton became the first city in the San Joaquin Valley to require all new city buildings to achieve some level of LEED certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) encompasses five green design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

Exploring Alternative Energy Sources Stockton is working on the placement of solar photovoltaic systems on its city facilities. We are also

exploring the possibility of wind turbines.

A Greener New City Hall

The City purchased the former Washington Mutual in downtown late 2007 with the intention of converting part of the facility to City Hall. This building is an energy star certified building.

The first department to move in was the city's Information Technology Department. The data center is the most energy efficient data center in the Valley. By using green technology, IT will consume less than 1/2 of the power currently consumed. The return on investment for this data center will be less than 7 years through energy savings.

Energy Audits of City Facilities

The city conducted energy audits of 30 city facilities. As a result of these audits, PG&E switched much of our lighting to more energy efficient ones. The city saved 282,605 KWH over a 10 month period.

Purchasing and Consuming Environmentally Friendly Products

In January 2009, the city will switch to less toxic, more environmentally friendly janitorial cleaners and other products. One third of what our city currently purchases is made up of recycled content products and we intend to continue the trend upwards. The city no longer purchases Styrofoam products which are detrimental to the environment.

Biodiesel Fleet

In January 2008, the city began phasing in a biodiesel blend into our diesel engines. Biodiesel reduces carbon emissions, decreases our dependence on oil, contains no petroleum, can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend, and can be used in diesel engines with little or no modifications.



LEAGUE NEWS

LWVUS FOCUS ON WATER

LWVUS established a Climate Change Task Force in response to the LWVUS Board designating climate change as a priority for advocacy. As part of this effort, the TF has prepared articles on how we can pro-actively help our environment. As space allows, these articles will be shared with our members via the Voter.

Water—Let's Use This Precious Resource Wisely!

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Water is an increasingly scarce resource. Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful management of this precious resource is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Moreover, using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used. Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can we, as individual consumers, help?

Saving Water Indoors

Indoor water usage in a typical single family home in the United States is about 70 gallons per person per day. But fixing leaks, installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and changing some everyday habits can reduce water usage significantly to around 45 gallons/person/day.

Fix those Leaks

- Leaks account for about 13 percent

of the water used in a typical home. A slowly dripping faucet or a toilet that keeps "running" can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. To check for leaks, read the water meter before and after a two-hour period in which no water is being used. After the test period, if the meter has a higher reading, there is probably a leak.

Buy Water-Saving Fixtures, Appliances

- Toilets are typically the greatest water user in the house, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total used in a home each day. Replacing an older 3.5-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilet with a 1.6-gpf, low-flush model will save at least 10 gallons of water/per person/day. New lower-flow dual-flush toilets will cut usage even further. By reducing water bills, newer toilets pay for themselves in just a few years.
- Replacing older showerheads with low-flow fixtures and installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets are both low-cost ways to save water. And by cutting the demand for hot water, this step will result in energy savings as well.
- Water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washers also help save water—and energy.

Turn Off the Tap



- A few small changes in everyday habits can result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and save well over 1000 gallons/person/year. Take a five-minute shower (12.5 gallons of water with a new showerhead) instead of a bath and save 20-30 gallons each time

Conserving Water Outside

- Rainwater can be "harvested"—

Thank you!

LWVSJC thanks an anonymous donor for underwriting the publication of our Membership Roster. We appreciate the contribution which will allow our funds to be used for other public education efforts.

Membership Rosters Available

Our Membership Directory has been updated and printed and is available for distribution. To make the most of our tight budget, we plan to distribute the rosters at programs this Spring. Any member who would like to receive their roster in the mail instead should email lwvsjc@gmail.com or call the League at 465-0293.

Members who reside outside San Joaquin County will be mailed their roster. Only members whose dues are current will receive a directory.

collected as it runs off the roof and stored in rain barrels or a cistern for future landscape irrigation. Benefits include lower water bills, less waste of precious drinking water, reduced demand on the municipal water system and increased groundwater recharge.

- Replacing lawn areas with natural landscaping will save water and energy as well as benefit the natural environment. Lawn maintenance is water intensive—some 30 percent of our water is used to irrigate lawns—and lawnmowers cause five percent of the nation's air pollution.



League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County
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CALENDAR

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.—On the “Water” Front: Restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Director Barbara Parilla; California State University/Stanislaus/Stockton Campus, 612 E. Magnolia. 9:30—refreshments, 10:00-11:30 a.m.- program
11:30-12:30: MEMBERSHIP—HOW TO INCREASE OUR RANKS. STAY FOR THIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.

Sunday, February 15, 2009—Susan B. Anthony Dinner
Brookside Country Club, 3603 St. Andrews Drive, Stockton

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—Restore the Delta Water Symposium
Robert J. Cabral Ag Center, 2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Suite 200 (off Arch Airport Road), Stockton
Panels and speakers will focus on issues concerning the Delta. More information in February Voter.

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—Running for Office: True Tales from the Campaign Trail
Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston, Lincoln Unified School Board Trustee Van Ha To-Cowell, and Legislative Aide and former candidate for County Board of Supervisors Anne Baird will be panelists talking about their campaign experiences. Other candidates may join the panel. Place: TBA

LWVC Convention: May 15-17, 2009: *Catch the Wave to the Future.* Long Beach.

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hospice, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton . Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.