



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area

www.lwvbayarea.org



VOTER
February 2013

Meeting with BART staff on Signage and Maintaining the System

You are invited to meet with BART staff on Wednesday, March 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at BART headquarters, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, on the 18th floor in BART's large conference room. All interested League members and their friends are welcome. You can walk there from the 19th Street BART station.

Signage at BART has been mentioned repeatedly during meetings of the LWV Bay Area's Transportation Committee as a problem for many riders who encounter problems such as:

- 1) difficulties in identifying stations at stops from inside the trains, and
- 2) problems in trying to locate elevator entrances, both inside and outside of BART stations.

BART's maintenance was highlighted as a problem by Betty Deakin at UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies, in a recent study that calculated BART would need up to \$15 billion to meet its maintenance needs.

We look forward to a lively and informative meeting at BART headquarters.



“The right to water shall be limited to such water as shall be reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and such right does not extend to the waste or unreasonable use of water.”

California Constitution Article 10

LWVBA's annual Bay Area League Day presented **Water: California's Gold 2013** with The Sacramento Bee's Matt Weiser and three panels of policymakers, scientists and NGOs addressing California's water sources, its governance and the controversial plans for Sacramento-San Joaquin system Delta diversions via a \$14 billion canal system endorsed by Governor Jerry Brown.

One hundred and fifty Leaguers and other colleagues from throughout the Bay Area gathered on February 2 at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland.

Keynote speaker Matt Weiser, senior writer at The Sacramento Bee on natural resources and flood control issues in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta since 1995, gave a compelling overview of California water including dredging, invasive species, pollution, potential perils of Delta isles and levees, growing water demand amid wildlife decline, and an introduction to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) for two giant water diversion tunnels, habitat restoration, levee improvements, and new pumping rules.



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The first panel of speakers filled out Water 101 with Elizabeth Dougherty, Executive Director of Wholly H₂O, on local water sheds and localized water management; Dr. Christina Swanson, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Science Center in San Francisco, on water diversion impacts on fish and ecosystems, and an alternative plan to the state's BDCP; and Maurice Roos of the California Department of Water Resources, on state water projects, water supply and use, new storage possibilities, and the effects of climate change.

Governance was the focus of Panel 2 with Peter Brostrom, Acting Chief of Urban Water Use Efficiency for the California Department of Water Resources, who discussed water conservation laws and urban water management plans; Felicia Marcus, governor-appointed Board Member of the California State Water Resources Control Board, who gave an overview of governance institutions and processes in process for the Delta; and Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, on the role of local water agencies and coalitions.



Matt Weiser



Adam Scow



Christina Swanson



Steve Ritchie and Felicia Marcus

The third and final panel focused on the overview of the Delta plan with Adam Scow, California Campaigns Director for Food & Water Watch, who addressed the Delta conveyance and the \$2 billion salmon fishery collapse; Richard Roos Collins, Principal in the Water and Power Law Group PC, on BDCP and peripheral canal conveyance proposals; and Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Campaign Director for Restore the Delta, who discussed non-conveyance solutions for the Delta and for California's water management – Delta flows, levees, compromised land, local water supply, and water conservation.

Bay Area League President Marion Taylor opened and closed the event that began with continental breakfast at 9 a.m., included lunch, and offered tabling by other water interests such as EBMUD, concluding at 2 p.m.

Look for speakers' videos and slide presentations online at lwbayarea.org.



Audience