

# LWVBA VOTER

MARCH 2016



League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area



## LWVBA Supports Bay Restoration Authority Ballot Measure AA – June, 2016 Ballot

LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed Measure AA, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs 2/3 voter approval total within the region to pass. Our Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay, and also 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. 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. We have asked the SF Bay Restoration Authority to develop improved procedures for project selection and oversight. LWVBA will be preparing Pros and Cons for your use as soon as ballot arguments are filed.

## ABAG-MTC Merger Study Update

The process continues to assess the consolidation of the ABAG and MTC planning staff, and potential future merger. LWVBA was interviewed by the consultants, Management Partners. We made it clear that our vision is for a fully consolidated regional agency at some point. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Joint ABAG-MTC Committee received a presentation of how other similar regional governments are structured. An Assembly Select Committee, chaired by Assemblyman Tony Thurmond, has been formed to also consider regional governance issues in the Bay Area.

### **Public meetings on the Merger Study are being held around the region**

**March 2** in San Jose

**March 8** in Walnut Creek

**March 14** in Novato

For more information: [www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com](http://www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com)

## Plan Bay Area 2040

Meanwhile, the next round of regional planning continues. On February 20th a workshop was held on the topic of housing and displacement. More information is at <http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/recap-calling-bay-area-home-tackling-affordable-housing-and-displacement>. This site also includes key “white papers” from important regional stakeholders on housing solutions.

# LWVBA Convention

Saturday, May 7, 2016 | San Mateo | 9:30am to Noon

This is our biennial convention where we elect officers, adopt a budget, and approve our program priorities for the next 2 years. Also, we will be considering amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and By Laws to merge with our LWVBA Education Fund to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Be sure to save the date!

# Bay Area League Day 2016

Videos of our very successful 2016 Bay Area League Day, Reinventing Transportation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, are in process and we will let you know as soon as they are posted. Thanks to all who attended the event.



# EXPLORE THE BAY AREA MONITOR



February/March 2016 | [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

## ENERGIZED BY RENEWABLES



The Bay Area may currently be witnessing a classic example of a tipping point. In 2002, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill 117 (Migden), allowing California communities to purchase and re-sell clean energy to residents and local businesses, a practice known as community choice aggregation. However, until recently only one such program existed in the Bay Area: Marin Clean Energy, which launched in 2010. Now, in the short time since the Bay Area Monitor last covered this issue in 2013, Sonoma Clean Power is up and running, CleanPowerSF in San Francisco announced a start date in May, and four additional counties — San Mateo (Peninsula Clean Energy), Santa Clara (Silicon Valley CCE Partnership), Alameda, and Contra Costa — are exploring the option.

<http://bit.ly/1UFc8kF> | Leslie Stewart

## FERRIES PLAN UPGRADES AS RIDERSHIP SWELLS



The number of Bay Area residents taking a ferry is rising, an increase that's likely to continue as operators add new boats and routes, and upgrade infrastructure to ensure smooth sailing. Ferry ridership jumped during 2015 as commuters sought relief from roadway congestion and packed BART trains, based on figures from two regional operators. <http://bit.ly/ferryswell> | By Cecily O'Connor

## TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE, STEWARDS FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY



For more than a century, photographs have helped protect open space in California, inspiring conservation by capturing the grandeur of nature. In the late 1800s, Carleton Watkins' mammoth plate images of Yosemite influenced President Lincoln to preserve that wilderness area. Years later, Ansel Adams' landscape portraits of the southern Sierra Nevada were credited with getting national park status for Kings Canyon. These days, photos are still boosting land stewardship in the Bay Area — although perhaps not in ways those photographic pioneers could have envisioned. <http://bit.ly/protectopenspace> | Elizabeth Devitt

## HOW RESTORING WETLANDS WILL PREPARE US FOR SEA LEVEL RISE



After California's worst drought in 500 years, we're finally enjoying a rainy winter thanks to one of the strongest El Niños on record. Droughts interspersed with drenching are nothing new for us — these extremes are part of our normal weather cycle — and periodic wet years are nothing we can't handle. But that's about to change. In coming decades, sea level rise will amplify the storm surges and ultra-high "king" tides that send waves crashing over levees. <http://bit.ly/prepareus> | Robin Meadows