

# LWVBA VOTER

February 2016



League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area



## Last Call: Bay Area League Day

Saturday, February 6, 2016

### Reinventing Bay Area Transportation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Location: 13831 San Pablo Ave  
San Pablo, CA

Registration & Refreshments;  
9:00 - 9:30 am

Program: 9:30 –2:30 pm

On-site registration:  
\$40, or \$25 without lunch



Last day to register online: Feb. 4, 2016 – [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org)

## ABAG-MTC Merger Study Status

The first stage of the consultant review of an ABAG-MTC staff consolidation or merger began with a facilitated workshop on Friday, January 22, 2016. Participants including elected members of the ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee, along with “non governmental” stakeholders (LWVBA, Bay Area Council, SPUR, Greenbelt Alliance, Building Industry Assn. and Public Advocates). We all provided feedback as to the objectives and desired outcomes of the study. Next steps are a report back on February 26 on other regional models, and the results of this workshop. On March 25 alternatives for consolidation or merger will be presented. In the meantime, Management Partners, the consulting firm, will survey all elected officials in the region, interview both staff and other stakeholders, as well as to hold 3 public meetings. (See LWVBA Letter to the Editor in the SF Chronicle posted on our website) Stay tuned.

# Plan Bay Area Latest Round

Forum on Affordable Housing & Displacement

Saturday, February 20, 2016

9 am to 1:30 pm

Oakland Marriott City Center

1101 Broadway Oakland

This forum is provided at no charge

You do need to register to ensure sufficient space and lunches.

## **Registration:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11im1pXR5KeuFR0UEI0t9msYtyhBpfhmfJ-VwBsy1UCg/viewform>

# Letter to the SF Chronicle Editor

**Printed January 21, 2016 in Letters to the Editor**

John Diaz, Editor | San Francisco Chronicle | San Francisco, CA

Regarding “Bold action needed to fix housing, transit, climate ills” (Insight, Jan. 17) and “Combine regional agencies to solve common problems” (Insight, Jan. 17): We agree with Egon Terplan and Jim Wunderman and their analyses of the state of regional governance. We support their call for a unified and more responsive consolidated agency for the Bay Area. The initial process to review the merger of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments staff, following the recent Plan Bay Area effort, is only the first step in the evaluation of the potential of a full restructuring.

**Read full letter:** <http://www.lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html#letters>

# SF Bay Area Restoration Authority: \$12

# Parcel Tax Proposed on the June Ballot

Voters in the nine Bay Area counties will be asked to vote in June 2016 on a parcel tax to fund tidal marsh restoration and flood protection projects in the San Francisco Bay. The measure is titled the Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure and is proposed by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, a seven-member government agency. This is the first of its kind, a regional effort aimed at raising \$500 million over the next 20 years. It could help restore nearly 30,000 acres of wetlands and would help promote resiliency against anticipated sea level rise. The measure has widespread support from elected leaders and environmental and business advocacy groups. LWVBA will be considering whether to support at our next Board meeting.



# EXPLORE THE BAY AREA MONITOR



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

## ENERGIZED BY RENEWABLES

<http://bit.ly/1UFc8kF>



By Leslie Stewart

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.

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

<http://bit.ly/prepareus>



By Robin Meadows

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 drenchings 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.

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

<http://bit.ly/protectopenspace>



By Elizabeth Devitt

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.

## FERRIES PLAN UPGRADES AS RIDERSHIP SWELLS

<http://bit.ly/ferryswell>



By Cecily O'Connor

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.