

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

VOTER

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* **BALD REPORT**

The LWV of the Bay Area was delighted that we again had a successful Bay Area League Day, **Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing Climate Change**, on Saturday, January 30, 2010, with over 150 people attending. The speakers were informative and inspiring. A full report on the meeting will appear in the next issue of the Bay Area Monitor.

* **BRIEF SUMMARY OF SB 375 (2008)**

1. It creates a Sustainable Communities Strategy that links climate policy with an integrated regional land-use-and-transportation-planning approach to reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles and light trucks. Within the Bay Area, automobiles and light trucks account for about 64 percent of emissions from the transportation sector. A Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is based on a regional target for greenhouse-gas reduction and it identifies areas for housing and development for all of the region's population. It identifies significant resource areas and farmland. It sets forth an integrated development pattern and transportation network that will achieve the greenhouse reduction targets for the region, if there is a feasible way to do it. The plan needs to comply with the federal clean air and transportation laws. An alternative planning strategy is permitted if it is not possible to achieve the targets within an SCS.

2. It aligns the program for the regional distribution of housing to be consistent with the SCS. The bill expands regional and local responsibilities relative to state housing objectives. It requires that the region identify residential areas sufficient to accommodate all of the Bay Area's population, including all economic groups, for 25 years; and it requires that, within three years of amending their housing elements, local governments enact zoning to implement those elements

3. It adds new provisions to the California Environmental Quality Act to encourage land use decisions that implement the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
4. It adds new modeling provisions to accurately account for the transportation impacts of land use decisions.

SB 375 explicitly assigns responsibilities to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to implement the bill's provisions for the Bay Area. Both agencies are members of the Joint Policy Committee (JPC). Policies were approved by the JPC and provide guidance to the two lead regional agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities in collaboration with their JPC partners, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).

The first step will be the establishment of regional greenhouse gas reduction targets by the California Air Resources Board by September 2010. After that, each region, in cooperation with counties and cities, will work on a Sustainable Communities Strategy for their region. If you need more information, please go to www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/jpc-sb375-implementation.htm or contact me at craighughes@earthlink.net.

Linda Craig, Regional Government Director

LWV BA

*** LWVBA NOMINATION REQUESTS**

LWVBA is beginning the nomination process for 2010-2011. Consider who among your League members is ready for a Wider View – the Bay Area. The meetings are once a month in downtown Oakland and it is an excellent way to connect your League to the greater Bay Area. Please send your nomination suggestions to Judi Bank, 5458 Fernhoff Rd., Oakland, CA 94619, 510-531-5449, judibank@aol.com.

*** LWVBA CALENDAR FOR YEAR**

February 24, 2010, Wednesday – 12:30 to 2 pm, InterLeague North, Berkeley
March 8, 2010, Monday – 11:30 – 1 pm Natural Resources/Water Committee, EBMUD
March 11, 2010, Thursday, 12:00-1:30 pm Interleague South, Palo Alto
April 12, 2010, Monday – 11:30 – 1 pm Natural Resources/Water Committee, EBMUD
April 28, Wednesday, 12:30 to 2 pm, InterLeague North, Berkeley
May 10, 2010, Monday – 11:30 – 1 pm Natural Resources/Water Committee, EBMUD
May 13, 2010, Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm Interleague South, Palo Alto
May 29, 2010, Saturday – LWVBA Convention (Tentative Location: Castro Valley Public Library)