

LWVBA VOTER
February 2007

Update from the LWV of Bay Area—February 2007

Bay Area Decision Makers, the LWVBVA Education Fund's Directory of Regional & Subregional Agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area has been updated and now available on-line at www.bayareamonitor.org or www.lwvbayarea.org. It contains agency profiles, key phone numbers, and links to agency websites. Since the links will assure up-to-the-moment information about agency board members, etc., LWVBA Ed Fund will no longer be preparing a printed hard-copy version, as it used to go out of date very rapidly.

Blue bookmarks referencing the new on-line publication are available for distribution to those who used to get the printed version. Contact editor@bayareamonitor.org for the bookmarks.

Climate Protection Activities Update

As mentioned last month, LWVBA will be working with regional and national groups on the effort to reduce global warming. LWVUS has issued a formal statement in this regard, and we are partnering with the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club on the "Cool Cities" effort on the SF peninsula and lower Alameda County to encourage cities to adopt this program, and a meeting is being planned for March. A sample letter has been prepared that could be sent to your local city council (contact president@lwvbayarea.org) A meeting on the peninsula on this topic is being planned for March, 2007.

At the regional level, we are following the joint effort of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to develop a regional strategy to address this issue in the Bay Area.

Linda Craig, President
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Bay Area League Day – Vision for the Future of the Bay Area: Focus on Housing
Saturday, January 27, 2007 – San Mateo City Library

John King, Urban Design Columnist, San Francisco Chronicle gave his perspective on development in the Bay Area – the region is so large and diverse there is no common vision, and certainly no regional decision making. Successful future development will be infill, particularly in the already-urban areas such as San Jose, Oakland and San Francisco, building more density near

transit and in inner suburban cities, and thoughtful reuse of older buildings (even changing uses from industrial, to office, to housing, etc). He views the City of Portland as an example of a successful region (except for some recent state-wide land use laws).

The Bay Area “Focusing our Vision” project was explained by Ken Kirkey, Planning Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, in which a technical advisory committee and sophisticated mapping techniques are attempting to focus on the best potential areas for future housing growth. Only those communities that *want* to increase density and add housing will receive incentives for participating in target projects. Bettina Ring, BA Open Space Council, explained their project with Greenbelt Alliance to identify key habitat and resource areas that should be protected and remain undeveloped, as well as working on urban park needs. Gwen Regalia talked about how Walnut Creek was able to provide fairly dense housing in the city center, while still having growth and height limits.

The latest round of State-required Housing Element updates are coming again, and Gillian Adams of ABAG explained the criteria for Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to assign housing targets, by income categories, to each city and county throughout the region. Duane Bay, San Mateo County, and Paul Peninger, Non-Profit Housing of No. Calif. mentioned various obstacles to building affordable housing, and also ways to be successful.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will keep local Leagues informed as these projects move forward, to help to advocate League positions for regional planning concepts and affordable housing.

Linda Craig
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Save these Dates – Put them on your Calendar:

For additional information on these meetings go to www.lwvbayarea.org/

LWVBA Meetings Dates 2007

LWVBA Natural Resources/Water	Friday, February 9th
LWVBA Interleague Network – North	Wednesday, Feb. 14 th , 2007
LWVBA Interleague Network – South	Thursday, March 8 th , 2007
LWVBA Council	Saturday, May 5, 2007

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Web Sites:

Bay Area Monitor: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

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