



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

The ILO represents the Leagues of
San Diego City and North County

Voter

October 2014

web and e-mail edition

President's Message

The San Diego County ILO is off to a good start for the new program year. As you read in this edition of the *VOTER*, the recent County League Day was a real success. If you were unavailable to attend, I am sorry you missed hearing Helen Hutchinson, LWVC President speak about "Advocacy the League Way." Many reported that it was the most informative League event they ever attended.

The ILO Board will meet this year every other month beginning in September. We met on September 5 and reviewed and reaffirmed plans for the year.

We will conduct our annual opportunity drawing and solicit your participation in the donation of gift cards for the drawing and for your donation when you receive the letter with tickets.

Treasurer Barbara Lorenzen is ready to submit our ILO application to become a 501(c)3 organization. We have reason to believe that our request will be approved; other Leagues in California have been successful with their applications. We are most appreciative of **Barbara's work along with Nancy Hand, last year's treasurer**, who assisted in providing all the required documentation.

Board members for this year are Donna Bartlett-May, Secretary; Barbara Lorenzen, Treasurer, Peggy Dornish, Director Agriculture; Sylvia Hampton, Director Health Care & Reproductive Choice; Liz Kruidenier, Director Behavioral Health; Nan Valerio, Director Regional Government; Josan Feathers, Director Land Use and Environment, Roni Seay, Website Manager, and Dolores Nelson, *Voter* Editor. Marjie Larson, Director



Helen Hutchinson and Kay Ragan

Social Policy, asked to serve off-board this year.

Vacancies, however, continue to exist on the Board. We need a vice president, an education director, voter service director and nominating committee chair and members. The beauty of the ILO is that the board is comprised of members from North County and San Diego Leagues. We would love for volunteers to come forward for each of the positions.

Members are welcome to attend ILO Board meetings held at Scripps Ranch Library from 10 am till noon on November 7, January 2, March 6, and May 1. Dates are already scheduled for the ILO Council meeting on June 12 and our Annual League Day on August 28.

Please let me hear from you regarding San Diego County issues that should be on our radar but we may be missing.

Best, *Kay Ragan*

kragand@cox.net

County League Day Featured LWVC President Helen Hutchison and Tour of Registrar of Voters Facility

The August 22 San Diego County League Day at the new County Operations Center in Kearney Mesa, featured Helen Hutchison, the new President of LWV of CA. and a tour of the new Registrar of Voters Building on the site.

LWV members from San Diego and North County gathered to hear Hutchison share her vast experience as LWVC Legislative Director and years of action in the Oakland, CA League.

The 45 members in attendance learned how the state ballot measures are studied carefully by the Legislative Committee, the consultants and issue directors to find if LWVC can support or oppose them. If we have not studied the issue and have a position, we cannot take action and must remain neutral.

Hutchison reminded the group of the LWV history in getting the vote for women and developing the process of Program Planning to decide which issues to study at which level of government, how to conduct a study, educate members, engage the public and then, if possible, reach a consensus. Once a position is established we take action. This unique process results in the body of work that guides the LWVC action in Sacramento by the staff lobbyist Trudy Schafer, who writes letters to key players, presents testimony at hearings and visits legislators to explain why LWVC supports or opposes a bill.

Hutchison explained that local Leagues follow this same model with county and city issues. Local LWVs also support the state efforts with state elected officials in **their area. She urged local leaders and board members to, “Do an action plan, base every action and message on a position, and work in coalitions.”**

Kay Ragan, LWV County President led a Q & A session with Lottie Fox, Management Training Advisor for LWV San Diego and LWV Shur Fellow, with Helen Hutchison answering questions from attendees.

A tour of the County Registrar of Voters building followed lunch on the patio.

About 20 members gathered in the ROV building where Robert Pennisi, Chief Deputy, Voter Services and Holly Davidson, Chief Deputy for Precinct Services Division met them to start the one hour tour. They took the group through the entire process from poll worker training, vote by mail, signature checking to vote counting and reporting of election results. The public art displayed in the building shows a history of the department with strong evidence of employee dedication to the mission of getting every eligible citizen to vote, making sure the vote is fair and accurate and reporting the results in a timely fashion. Jeanne Brown, LWV San Diego Program Director, said, **“For those of us who had toured the old facility and now the new, we can appreciate the increased efficiency while still maintaining respect for voters and ballots.”**

Mark your calendar for the next League Day August 28, 2015.



Photos: 1 Robert Pennisi and Holly Davidson 2 The Tour 3 History Wall 4 Vote by Mail Department

~ Sylvia Hampton, Director, Public Health, and Event Organizer

Regional Government Reports

White is the New Yellow



At the summer meeting of the Caltrans External Advisory Liaison (CEAL) group, of which the League of Women Voters is a member, Caltrans engineers discussed the change in the color of the stripes used to mark freeway lanes. When they are due for renewal, the yellow painted lines will be replaced with white thermoplastic strips coated with a reflective material, which are considerably cheaper than paint and last three times as long. These new white strips meet federal standards and **also are being installed across the country as the old yellow “lines” need to be replaced.** In addition, as traffic signs wear out, they are being replaced with new reflective material making them easier to see and thus

improving safety. Local traffic updates are now available on smart-phones. Download the app at quickmap.dot.ca.gov/GIS11. Freeway traffic information is still available by phone at 511.

New Airport Plaza

The San Diego Regional Airport Authority Board has approved construction of a three-story parking plaza to be built on the south side of the newly improved Terminal 2, on the site of the current surface parking lot. This facility, to be completed in 2017, will increase the amount of available parking near the terminals. The North Side consolidated rental car facility is scheduled for completion in 2016. This will greatly reduce traffic on Harbor Drive, as shuttles between the terminals and the facility will travel on airport property, not the public streets. The plan to improve transit service to the airport is under development jointly by the Airport Authority and SANDAG and will be incorporated in the Regional Transportation Plan 2050. Details and Updates to all the Airport Authority’s proposed developments are on-line. Click on “Airport Projects” in the top bar at www.san.org.



The airport is home to the California least tern, a federally listed endangered seabird species. The airport provides it with nesting habitat and easy access to foraging opportunities in nearby San Diego Bay.

Forward on Forward



SANDAG continues its development and review of various “scenarios” for the Regional Transportation Plan 2050, called San Diego Forward. These “scenarios” describe available funding and how these funds could be allocated to meet the region’s transportation needs. Public transit is a major effort in the proposals. For a full report on these projects and to express your opinions, click on “San Diego Forward” at www.sandag.org

~ Nan Valerio, Regional Government



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

July 28, 2014 Statement by the League of Women Voters of San Diego County

To: San Diego County Department of Planning and Development Services

Attention: Mark Slovick

Re: Lilac Hills Ranch Draft Revised EIR (REIR)

The League of Women Voters has commented throughout the evolution of the General Plan, supporting principles of compact growth, enforcement of fire-safe development, and identifying and safeguarding valuable agricultural land, a limited resource. We promote conservation and preservation of critical natural resources. Our Land Use position supports minimizing urban sprawl and maintaining established patterns of growth and community identity by allowing self-determination in community planning and decision making. We review major development projects with regional impacts, including environmental analysis, for consistency with comprehensive and regional infrastructure plans. Land use decisions should relate to and protect the overall quality of the environment while minimizing additional motor vehicle traffic.

Similarly, the County's General Plan incorporates smart growth and land planning principles intended to reduce vehicle miles traveled, thus reducing greenhouse gases, by locating future development within and near existing infrastructure. Whereas, the REIR traffic study indicates significant and unavoidable impacts on Interstate 15 from Riverside County to State Route 78.

The Lilac Hills Ranch proposed mixed-use residential and commercial land uses, consisting of 1,746 dwelling units on 608 acres, are not consistent with the existing General Plan Land Use Designations of Semi-Rural and Rural Residential. This requires a General Plan Amendment and changes to the Valley Center and Bonsall Community Plans, which both Planning Groups voted against. This project also seeks to re-zone what is now predominantly agricultural land zoned as "Limited Agriculture" (A70) to Village Residential (VR 2.9) and Village Core (C-5). The REIR indicates that the site is a significant agricultural resource impacted by the significant loss of Important Farmland and 43.8 acres of soils of Prime or Statewide Importance.

The General Plan prohibits leapfrog development, except for new LEED Neighborhood Development (ND) certified Villages. However, a LEED prerequisite stipulates development be sited in a Smart Location with existing infrastructure and nearby multimodal public transit, job availability and public services, thus, precluding this project, located 45 miles from San Diego.

The REIR shows significant and unavoidable adverse impacts to visual resources, air quality, and noise. The project site, located in a Wildland Urban Interface area in a moderate to very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone, would be susceptible to wildland fires with only three evacuation routes.

The County's revised conclusion is that this project could result in adverse physical environmental effects due to growth inducement, potentially further impacting visual resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and noise.

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County believes that this project is not suitable for this location. We urge you to adhere to the principles and guidelines of the General Plan and deny the General Plan Amendment, re-zoning and the Community Plans changes. Thank you.

Kay Ragan, President

Cathrine Greene, Co-President

Jösan Feathers, P.E., LEED AP

LWV San Diego County

LWV North County San Diego

Natural Resources Director,

kragand@cox.net

LWV San Diego County