

League of Women Voters of San Diego County COUNTY VOTER

Winter 2008

An Inter-League Organization (ILO) - City of San Diego ▪ East San Diego County ▪ North Coast ▪ Escondido

Website: <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The information contained herein is for the use of League members only and cannot be republished or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the League of Women Voters.

Co-President's Letter

By Kay Ragan

First off, I have not done much League work this month. I co-signed a letter with Adrienne Schere to the governor and members of the legislature regarding the lack of action on the Federal Trust Funding for California. Adrienne heard from Dede Alpert and I am sure she will report more on the outcome.

I wrote my column for the County VOTER on the 10th Street Terminal Prop B. Nan Valerio has done most of the research on this issue and is preparing a letter for the UT that Norma Damashek and her co-chair Ann Hoiberg and I will sign. In the future when the County's jurisdiction overlaps with that of a local League, the last thing we want to have happen is to send two League letters. If the two groups are not in harmony one of us should default to the other. I think that was the intent of Eddie Cisco's comment at the last board meeting but it was not a part of the motion that opposed Prop B.

The last thing we want to have happen is two League letters to the editor with opposing points of view. It does not mean that a local League and the county League couldn't each have a letter of support or opposition. In this case Nan is going to send the letter to me and I believe to Norma and if there is agreement we will both sign it.

I expect to attend the hearing on the **Navy Broadway Complex** on Saturday, Sept. 27. This is one of several meetings scheduled at 937 Harbor Drive, Building 12 and you enter from Pacific Coast Highway. It is scheduled from 10-12 with an open house and the actual meeting is from 12-2pm.

I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the October 3 meeting, but will see you in November. I attempt to respond to anything that comes my way, so please let me hear from you if there is something I should be doing. If I don't respond to your email, please leave me a message on my cell phone, 619-922-8133.

County of San Diego Proclamation Honoring Eddie Cisco

On September 16, 2008, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the following proclamation.

PROCLAMATION HONORING EDDIE CISCO

Whereas: Eddie Cisco has been a member of the East County League of Women Voters for 50 years; and

Whereas: Eddie Cisco has also been an observer for the County League of Women Voters for 37 years; and

Whereas: As the East County League of Women Voters historian, Eddie Cisco is responsible for maintaining all important actions and policy on file; and

Whereas: Eddie Cisco has organized study groups including "Citizen Participation Study" and "Options for Unincorporated Communities" following Proposition 15; and

Whereas: As an advocate for political activism Eddie Cisco has always stressed the importance of knowing and participating in local government; and

Whereas: The County of San Diego is committed to recognizing and honoring those individuals who are dedicated to the best ideals of public service. Eddie Cisco is one such worthy citizen.

Now Therefore: Be it proclaimed by Chairman Greg Cox and all members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on this 16th day of September 2008 that we commend Eddie Cisco for outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to area residents and so hereby declare this day to be "**EDDIE CISCO DAY**" throughout San Diego County.



League Member Eddie Cisco receives her Proclamation from County Supervisor Dianne Jacob. Also pictured is County League Co-President Nancy McCleary


Smart Voter

Did you know that Smart Voter, the election website first produced in 1996 by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, was the first website to offer personalized election information based on a voter's address? Voters continue to praise the site and to use it in increasing numbers. Go to www.smartvoter.org/ca/sd to see the entire list of candidates and measures on San Diego County ballots in November. The wealth of information already posted on the site will increase as more becomes available from the Registrar, Secretary of State and assorted media. The free space available to all candidates encourages them to expand on their ballot statements and to reach voters not following contests in the print media. Voters, by entering their voting address on Smart Voter, see their own ballot. They can access the site at their convenience for information to help them make their own informed choices. Smart Voter is part of the Voter Service arm of the League, with no League advocacy included on the site. The pros and cons of all state propositions are on Smart Voter, with links to more information. The 22 local propositions also are posted.

With close to 500 candidates on county ballots, the team of Smart Voter volunteers from the four local Leagues is busy urging candidates not yet on the site to participate, adding pertinent links to specific contests and measures, and expanding publicity in print and online. The Smart Voter volunteer team includes Eddie Cisco, Lisa Hamann, John Joseph, and Marietta Lassaline from East County; Muriel Filman, Nancy McCleary, Kay Ragan, and Judy Seerey from San Diego City; Patrick Coony from Escondido; and Suzanne Carneiro, Ann Heuton, Joyce Joseph, Tina Schmidt and Gail Tullao from North Coast. Many other members throughout the county help with candidate follow up. The Smart Voter team asks all members to encourage the public to use this valuable service. The League receives many compliments on Smart Voter from candidates and voters. Please help spread the word even further in this historic election season.

Joyce Joseph, County Coordinator
Smart Voter Project
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The League of Women Voters Recommends

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 1A** – Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

This \$9.95 billion bond act would partially fund a high-speed train project between Los Angeles/Anaheim and San Francisco, and possible extensions to Sacramento and to San Diego, at a total project cost of \$45 billion, including the additional seg-

ments. Federal grants and public-private partnerships would be needed to fund at least half of each segment. Proposition 1A would provide a transportation option that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lessens the need to expand highways and airports. This revised proposition addresses concerns about cost and financial uncertainties by requiring a new business plan, peer review, and other accountability provisions, and it allows bond funds to be used for the other segments if there is no negative impact on the first phase.



YES ON PROPOSITION 3 – Children's Hospital Bond Act

Proposition 3 authorizes \$980 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals. These regional centers provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay. They treat the majority of California's low-income children. Eighty percent of the proceeds would go to eight nonprofit children's hospitals and 20 percent to University of California children's hospitals. Prop 3 will address escalating construction costs and improve health care access for children who are indigent, uninsured, underinsured or eligible for government health programs.



NO ON PROPOSITION 4 – Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy

Prop 4 requires a physician to notify the parent of a pregnant minor before performing an abortion. Mandatory notification laws may sound good but, in the real world, they put the health and safety of teens in danger. A frightened, pregnant teen who can't go to her parents may choose an unsafe, illegal abortion, or even contemplate suicide, instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she needs. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. California voters have rejected this proposal twice, but proponents have put it on the ballot again, adding more unreasonable provisions.



YES ON PROPOSITION 5 – Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation

Proposition 5 would require the state to expand treatment and rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees, and reduce the criminal consequences of nonviolent offenses. Additional costs of treatment would be offset by reductions in prison and parole operating costs, as well as in the need for capital outlay for prison facilities. The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.




NO ON PROPOSITION 6 – Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative)

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement and probation programs. This will mean an increase of \$500 million a year for these programs and for operating prison and parole systems, and a \$500 million capital outlay for prison

facilities. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds. Harmful policy changes in this initiative include prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults and giving counties less flexibility in the use of drug and mental health funds for juveniles.

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 7** – Renewable Energy Generation


Proposition 7 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 50 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2025. While the League supports a renewable energy target, we feel this is too optimistic to be achieved, and well beyond the targets for implementing the landmark greenhouse-gas emissions reduction law, AB 32. Moreover, Prop 7 is poorly drafted. Experts say it will not achieve its stated goals and will actually disrupt the development of renewable power. It may force small renewable energy companies out of California's market and cause higher energy bills..

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 8** – Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry

This proposed limitation of marriage as only between a man and a woman infringes on the equal rights that should be available to all people. The California Supreme Court has concluded that there is a “fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship.” The League opposed Proposition 22 in 2000 and continues to oppose such limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians.

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 9** –Criminal Justice System, Victims' Rights, Parole

Proposition 9 would expand the legal rights of crime victims in various ways and could undo many of the rights of prisoners and parolees to due process and speedy parole revocation hearings. This initiative asks voters to support victims' rights that are already protected under state law and is unnecessary.

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 10** – Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy, Bonds

This measure would authorize the sale of \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to provide rebates to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, and to fund grants and other incentives for technology development. The League favors the use of bonds to finance capital expenditures or the purchase of property for public purposes. The purposes of this bond are not an appropriate use for state-issued, bond-generated revenues.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 11** – Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act

It is an inherent conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. Proposition 11 removes from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead, it provides for the

appointment of a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes clear criteria for how the boundaries shall be drawn, and requires an open and transparent process with due notice, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help stop the gridlock in Sacramento that keeps pressing issues from being addressed.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 2**, Standards for Confining Farm Animals and **Proposition 12**, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the League of Women Voters of California is taking no stand on these measures.

County League Stand On Prop B

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County opposes Proposition B, Marine Freight Preservation and Bayfront Redevelopment Initiative, on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

The ballot measure amends the adopted Port District Master Plan. The amendment would establish the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal Multi-Use Maritime District to expand uses of the existing commercial marine terminal, provide some recreational use, and require the Port District to enter into an exclusive negotiating agreement within 60 days of enactment of the Master Plan amendment in order to implement it. The proposed Plan amendment provides that the selected developer will construct buildings or other structures on a “deck” in the air-rights over the commercial terminal; provide for an addition of cruise ship docking facilities to the existing commercial vessel terminal; and develop a small public park with parking lot. The new Maritime District would comprise approximately 100 acres.

The reasons for opposition to Proposition B are that it circumvents the established process for amending the Port's Master Plan, it has the probability of only one developer being considered for any redevelopment of the terminal, and it provides for a “gift” of public lands to the developer. Discussion is as follows.

- Voters can vote only on the one proposed amendment to the Master Plan. There are no other options. This amendment to the Master Plan would require a development without a full discussion of the need for the development, without a detailed description of what any development should be, and how the public would actually benefit from this development of public lands. The ballot measure was originated by a private development firm, not the Port District.
- The development agreement required by the ballot proposition has a short, 60-day timeline. This requirement could prevent the Port District from seeking competitive proposals and bids from many developers, from opening the process to public scrutiny, and from allowing for a full public economic and other analysis of the proposals. It is probable that only the development firm, which wrote and circulated the ballot proposition, would be ready to enter

into the exclusive negotiating agreement within the required 60 days.

- The ballot measure would oblige the Port District to freely hand over public land and air rights without a competitive bid process to a private developer, gifting the developer a highly valuable public asset without recompense to the Port District. These land and air rights could be worth, according to the ballot measure proponents, approximately \$1 billion.

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County supports the Master Plan process, as provided in law, which requires the opportunity for review by the public and the opportunity to fully inform the community of the proposals' benefits and adverse impacts. Proposition B circumvents this process.

Kay Ragan and Nancy McCleary



CEAL Report Regional Governance

The SDCLWV is a member of the Caltrans External Advisory Liaison (CEAL) committee. This committee provides communication between Caltrans and community organizations within San Diego County. CEAL meets quarterly with the Caltrans District Director.

The summer quarterly meeting of CEAL was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2008. The agenda regularly has two sections: a report from the Caltrans District Director and a presentation on Caltrans activities as requested by CEAL members.

District Director Pedro Delgado-Orso made the following report.

- A Union-Tribune reporter will interview Pedro to discuss the effects of the economy on Caltrans' projects and the impact of high gas prices on congestion.
- Since 2005, the average congestion, as calculated based on traffic and other factors, has dropped below 2 hours a day.
- Caltrans is meeting with SANDAG and the region's military to discuss potential express bus drop-off and pick-up stops serving military members' needs.
- "Raids" on transportation funds at the state level are reducing funds available to transit operators and adversely impacting local transit services and routes.
- The Presidential Permit is expected in September so that Caltrans and the Mexican government can begin work on the Otay Mesa East (new) Border Crossing; it is planned to be a "toll" crossing.
- The San Diego region will receive approximately \$4 billion for various highway projects to improve goods movement at the docks and at the border.
- Caltrans will comply with the Judge's order to replace the Minute Man Volunteer Highway Maintenance sign on I-5, south of the Inspection station, while the case continues in

the court. While the state is writing guidelines for approving applications for these signs to be applied state-wide, no new applications will be accepted. There are three ways that the freeways are maintained: (a) by Caltrans' maintenance units – 50%, (b) by offenders and persons sentenced to community service – 25%, and (c) by the local community – 25%.

- Caltrans is working with the Coastal Commission staff to assure that the environmental issues connected with the work on I-5 from the 5-805 merge northwards are properly addressed and handled.
- Some bids on the I-15 projects have come in under estimates and thus about \$100 million will be available for additional improvements, such as transit stations, parking lots, and interchange improvements not originally scheduled.
- Caltrans expects to be able to meet its fiscal responsibilities for the highway construction projects, providing the State budget is approved by mid-September. About 5 years ago, when the budget was late, the local Caltrans District was able to obtain a "loan" from SANDAG to cover construction bills until the budget was enacted.

The presentation on Landscaping and Water Usage was given by Stephen Alvarez, Senior Landscape Architect.

There were drought problems in the late 1980's and Caltrans has been acting conscientiously since then with regards to its landscaping. Water conservation in landscaping is a high priority.

The Caltrans' Goals are: (a) responsible use of water, (b) use of reclaimed water, and (c) sustainable landscaping.

This Caltrans District was the first in the state to have a Water Manager, who controls about 40% of the landscaping sprinklers from the office. The remaining sprinklers are being added to this control system.

Caltrans has 3,300 acres of landscaping. About 17% of the acreage is irrigated with reclaimed water, using a total of 176 million gallons, per year.

Reclaimed water is bought from the City of San Diego and used on I-15, 52, 5, and 905; from Fallbrook Water District and used on the I-15; from the Carlsbad, San Dieguito, and Santa Fe Water Districts and used on the I-5, and from the Padre Dam Water District and used on the 52, 125, and 67.

Caltrans plans to add about 316 million gallons a year to the reclaimed system, expanding to the landscaping on 56, 52, 15, and 5-905-805 in South Bay.

Challenges to the program include the availability of the reclaimed water, water pressure, reliability, mineral contents, especially salt, costs, and training personnel on using it.

Caltrans has entered into cooperative and inter-agency agreements, allowed transmission lines and pump stations in the highway right-of-way, and informing the water districts of the Caltrans' needs with new programs.

Caltrans uses drought-tolerant plantings, native plants, and non-living ground treatments to landscape the highways and conserve water.

Nan Valerio, CEAL Representative, Regional Governance