Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Update on SB 562 Single-Payer Healthcare for California

Single-payer healthcare is a system in which the state, financed by taxes, covers basic healthcare costs for all residents regardless of income, occupation, or health status. "Single-payer" is the funding mechanism through which healthcare services are reimbursed by a single public authority. It is not a delivery system. Under the system proposed for California, the public authority would not own the healthcare facilities or employ the professionals who provide care.

This month’s Guest Speaker Pat Snyder, PhD, RN, has worked for a single-payer health care system in California for the past 14 years. Ms Snyder represents Health Care for All California on the leadership team of the “Healthy California Campaign”, a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for single-payer health care legislation. She is also LWV Diablo Valley’s Health Care Item Chair.

Ms Snyder will explain the purpose and status of the “Healthy California Act,” Senate Bill 562 (www.healthycaliforniaact.org). We spend more per capita on healthcare than any other developed country, but is the current system as beneficial for most Americans and specifically, how do Californians fare? How would a single-payer system be better? What might it look like, and can we afford it?

Ms Snyder is well qualified to speak on this subject, having a doctorate in Nursing from George Mason University and having served as nurse executive at several hospitals and as adjunct faculty at the University of San Francisco. It's sure to be a rousing and informative discussion.

Judi Lehman, jlehman@redshift.com

LWVMC September 13, 2017 General Meeting
12 noon Lunch / 12:30 to 1:30 Presentation
(Lunch $17 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by The Valley Grille).

Reservations are a must for lunch!
Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, September 9.
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)
Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is FREE.
Reminder: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404
Thank you for your confidence in me as I begin my first term as LWVMC President. I am excited by the decisions our Joint Board made in July, and look forward to the great Lunch & Learn programs planned for 2017-2018. I am particularly looking forward to October 18th (the third Wednesday of the month) when we host Congressman Jimmy Panetta who will update us on activities during his first year in office.

Unfortunately I will not attend this month’s meeting, as I’ll be at my 50th High School Class Reunion in Wisconsin. However, I know all will go well in the very experienced and able hands of our new Vice President, Nancy Selfridge.

Unfortunately I will not attend this month’s meeting, as I’ll be at my 50th High School Class Reunion in Wisconsin. However, I know all will go well in the very experienced and able hands of our new Vice President, Nancy Selfridge.

I look forward to meeting all of you during the upcoming League year!

Nancy, Bev Kreps and I represented LWVMC at the LWVC Convention along with 40+ other participating leagues from across California (see the report by Bev on page 8). As we participated in active workshops, caucuses, and main events, I was proud to confirm how well our local league lives up to our Mission Statement:

“The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”

This letter was sent by immediate past President Janet Brennan. California EMF (electromagnetic fields) Safety Coalition Member Nina Beety, reports that the item was tabled until September 13 with a request for “clearer language.”

TO: Cosme Padilla, Chair, Monterey County Planning Commission
168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901-2487

SUBJECT: Amendment to Indian Springs Scenic Easement for Cell Tower

Dear Chair Padilla and Members of the Commission:

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County urges you to deny approval of an amendment to a Scenic Conservation Easement for the proposed project.

Based on numerous studies of land use, the League of Women Voters of Monterey County supports the protection of scenic resources. Amending a conservation easement intended to protect such resources would set a precedent and lead to other similar requests which the Commission might have difficulty denying.

Scenic easements are typically required as mitigation measures for significant impacts on scenic resources or access. Additionally, Title 21.64.310, REGULATIONS provides:
Wireless communication facilities shall be allowed on any lot or parcel in any zoning district, subject to a discretionary permit, and subject to the following regulations: (4) Wireless communication facilities shall be sited in the least visually obtrusive location possible.

Permitting a cell tower in a scenic easement is inconsistent with this provision.

We urge the Planning Commission to direct planning staff to work with the applicant to find an alternative site as was undertaken for the proposed Holman Ranch cell tower in Carmel Valley a few years ago. This effort led to a solution satisfactory to all those involved including residents who wanted increased coverage and the applicant.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Janet Brennan, President

The two following letters were sent by current President Judi Lehman with expert drafting and editorial assistance of the entire LWVMC Board. She especially thanks George Riley (Director, Natural Resources), MaryEllen Dick (Voter Services Salinas Valley), and Janet Brennan (State & National Action) for helping her "learn the ropes."

At the time of this Voter publication, no responses or updates were available.

TO: Justin Buhr, Central Coast District Office, 725 Front Street Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.22 on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at California State University Monterey Bay Consent Cease and Desist Order No. CCC-17-CD-02 (RMC Pacific Materials, LLC, d/b/a CEMEX, Marina, Monterey Co.)

June 26, 2017

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

We wish to express our concern about the impact of sand mining on beach erosion in southern Monterey Bay. We ask that you take immediate action to end the CEMEX sand mining operations in Marina, California.

Southern Monterey Bay has the highest rate of coastal erosion in the state of California.

Scientific research by Professor Edward Thornton of the Naval Postgraduate School, has concluded that the primary cause of erosion in Southern Monterey Bay is due to sand mining. Dr. David Revell, a geomorphologist and consultant to the City of Monterey, agrees with Dr. Thornton’s findings. Professor Gary Griggs of UC Santa Cruz has written extensively on this topic and expresses similar concerns.

The CEMEX Marina Sand Mine, owned by a Mexican conglomerate, has been in operation since 1964. Five nearby shoreline sand mines were shut down by 1990 due to erosion concerns by the
Army Corps of Engineers and as a result, beach erosion rates temporarily improved (Thornton 2006).

It is estimated that CEMEX mines at least 200,000 cubic yards of sand a year, from the self-made pond on the beach. The estimated level of coastal erosion in Southern Monterey County is equivalent to loss of 14 acres of coastal land annually (Journal of Marine Geology, Volume 382, 1 December 2016, Pages 56–67) or 200,000 cubic yards of sand.

"It is estimated that CEMEX mines at least 200,000 cubic yards of sand a year ... from our coast, without any permits or oversight."

Moreover, current data suggests that since March 2016, when the Coastal Commission issued a Notice of Intent of a forthcoming Cease and Desist Order, the level of sand extraction has significantly increased. CEMEX is taking all this sand, from our coast, without any permits or oversight. The League believes that our resources should be conserved and protected in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem.

We are concerned that this level of coastal erosion will have significant impact to our beaches, infrastructure and tourism based economy. Continued erosion will have a direct effect on city roads, beach access parking lots, sewer pipelines and other infrastructure important to health and city services. We are also concerned about additional costs for erosion control, which will be magnified by predicted increases in sea level due to global warming.

The economic value of the CEMEX plant (14-20 jobs and $200,000 in property taxes) pales in comparison to the million dollar cost associated with erosion control and risk to our beaches and infrastructure.

Please proceed with your Cease and Desist Order and its prompt and complete enforcement. Your efforts to stop this unpermitted taking of our sand resources are vital to our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.
Sincerely, Judi Lehman, President

TO: Dayna Bochco, Chair, California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: July 14, 2017 Hearing on A-3-MCO-16-0017

July 6, 2017

Dear Chair Bochco and Members of the California Coastal Commission:

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County urges the Commission to deny the request to amend deed restrictions for 161 existing single-family residences in the Moro
Cojo subdivision to reduce the duration of required affordability. The proposed amendment means that in most cases, Moro Cojo homes which are currently affordable to low income families will become unaffordable when they change to market rate in 2020. Further, there is no proposal to replace the 161 affordable Moro Cojo homes, notwithstanding North County Local Coastal LUP Policy 4.3.6.D.1.a, which mandates replacement for lost North County affordable housing units.

Public Resources Code §30614, subdivision (a), provides the legislature’s guidance to the Coastal Commission regarding when a coastal development permit protecting existing affordable housing gets amended. Subdivision (a) of Section 30614 states:

(a) The commission shall take appropriate steps to ensure that coastal development permit conditions existing as of January 1, 2002, relating to affordable housing are enforced and do not expire during the term of the permit. (Public Resources Code §30614,(a).)

Condition no. 99 of the Moro Cojo coastal development permit relates to affordable housing and existed prior to 2002.

Contrary to the assertion by some community leaders, the League of Women Voters of Monterey County has been active in the affordable housing community. The League supports measures which would ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing. In 2016 the League was among several land use and environmental organizations supporting the Pebble Beach affordable housing project in face of significant neighborhood opposition.

We recognize that the scarcity of affordable housing constitutes a crisis. According to the Monterey County Economic Development Department’s report, “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice” (May 2013), a single person earning $14,550 a year is considered “very low income” and would not be able to rent or buy anywhere in Monterey County. A single person earning $24,250 a year (or slightly above minimum wage) is considered “low income” and would have difficulty finding housing. A single person earning $38,750 is considered “moderate income” and would also have difficulty finding housing. A single person earning $48,100 a year is considered “median income” in Monterey County, and could possibly afford to buy a lower priced house in unincorporated areas of the County, or rent in most of Monterey County. As of 2010, the median income of households in Monterey County was $59,271 (which includes single persons and families of all sizes). While 70 percent of households are middle to upper income, 7.8 percent are very low income, 8.7 percent are low income, and 13.5 percent are moderate income.

Amending the coastal development permit will result in excluding the much needed 161 Monterey County low-income households and the opportunity for families and singles to own a decent home in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Judi Lehman, President
TO: League of Women Voters US (National League)  

The country’s marine national monuments are home to a tremendous diversity and richness of ocean life and are of significant scientific, historic and cultural value. Designated under the Antiquities Act, four Marine National Monuments (the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Papahanaumokuakea, Pacific Remote Islands, Rose Atoll, and the Marianas Trench) constitute the first generation of blue parks bestowed on our nation. In addition, six Marine Sanctuaries, including Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, the Channel Islands, and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries off the California coast, Lake Michigan’s Thunder Bay, and American Samoa National Marine Sanctuary protect our valuable natural marine resources, promote sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, and support commercial and recreational fishing businesses.

The League of Women Voters believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. Our positions, well reviewed and developed by consensus by all of our members, include protecting the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use.

Our diverse marine monuments and sanctuaries protect a rich array of ocean species and their habitats, including deep sea ecosystems considered to support some of the rarest and unique ecological communities in the world. For instance, the habitats in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts are home to sperm whales, Atlantic puffins, and lush deep sea coral gardens, including one of the planet’s oldest organisms, black corals. Other species may contain chemical compounds of biomedical importance. The Pacific monuments protect hundreds of seamounts (underwater mountains), which are hotspots of biodiversity, while places like the Marianas Trench are home to hydrothermal vents, active volcanoes, and the deepest trench on the planet.

These sensitive ecosystems are some of the least explored in the world. An attempt to roll back protections in order to allow energy and mineral exploration or commercial fishing in any one of these monuments threatens our country’s scientific and cultural legacy and natural heritage.

We write to add our voice to the overwhelming body of public support strongly urging you to maintain the current boundaries and protections for all marine national monuments and sanctuaries. These unique places benefit all Americans, including our future generations.

Please consider this letter as an official public comment for Docket No. NOAA-NOS-2017-0066.
Marilyn Maxner, who assumed the position of LWVMC Treasurer this year, first joined the League of Women Voters in 1973 and was active for a few years until her two children kept her too busy to participate. Then, during the last decade, she became active in the League again, serving terms as Treasurer, President and Voter Service Director as well as being a delegate to both state and national LWV conventions.

“I continue to perform Voter Service duties,” Marilyn says, including Inspector “when we staff polls in elections. The Inspector is in charge of a polling place all day long, with the assistance of the clerks, who serve four-hour shifts.”

One other important activity she includes in her list of public services is a 2001 stint on the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury.

In addition to her League duties, Marilyn remains very active in her church, Bethlehem Lutheran in downtown Monterey. For many years, she has played the organ for Sunday services. “I took piano lessons when I was young and, every time we moved someplace, it seemed like they needed an organist, so I learned to play the organ,” she explains. She’s also held many leadership positions for Bethlehem Lutheran, including president, Sunday school superintendent, treasurer, elder and member of the worship committee.

In earlier years, Marilyn served on the Boards of Directors for Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West, which aids the developmentally disabled, the Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. She also has served as a delegate to both state and national conventions.

A lifelong music fan, Marilyn currently sings with both the Camerata Singers and the Bach Festival chorus.

One of the most memorable events in Marilyn’s life, she says, was the period she and her husband, David, lived in Asia. “Between 1967 and 1972, we lived for two years in Seoul, Korea, and three years in Hong Kong while my husband was teaching American history and Chinese studies in schools there,” she says.

After their years in Asia, the Maxner family moved to the Monterey Peninsula. “In 1972, when we moved here, they were laying off teachers,” Marilyn recalls, “so my husband changed professions.” David soon began a decades-long career as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, retiring last December.

The Maxners’ two children still live in this area. Their son, now 43, was born here and their daughter, 47, was born during their time in Hong Kong. Marilyn now enjoys serving as an occasional babysitter for her daughter’s three children.

When asked what changes she would like to see LWVMC make, Marilyn said, “I’d like to see us do things that enable younger people to participate. I’m not sure meeting when we do is helpful for that.”

She understands the difficulty in accomplishing that goal, however. “When I first joined the League, most of the women weren’t working outside the home and the League provided babysitting services,” she says. “Now most of the younger women are working and we no longer provide babysitting, so it’s a lot harder.”

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com
Judith Lehman, Nancy Selfridge and I went to our first State League Conference and there are so many images from those three days that I would like to share. Each workshop and speaker is a page of notes and quotes!

When President Helen Hutchison welcomed us she said that we were in a “new political world” after the 2016 elections and that League studies were in disagreement with many things in this new world. She asked us to “get our main message right and know where it’s important to add details.”

Most of all Ms Hutchinson wanted us to “embrace the idea of evolution in the League” and to “please pledge to be kind and gentle with each other!”

I took mental snapshots of an overcast early morning walk in a Sacramento that showed the struggles of empty buildings. I was feeling grateful for my good fortune when a group of black women handed out paper bags of food to the homeless as a grizzled skinny man smiled and said, “Bless you!”

A photo wall in the lobby backed clusters of people doing selfies. It felt sisterly to stand in a whole group photo taken before dinner.

There was plenty of buzz over the news of the moment that the US was backing out of the UN 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. Meanwhile I climbed the stairs to a workshop on League Climate Change Action Policy with a dizzying list of ideas from promoting energy conservation to promoting public access in decision-making (https://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change).

Brooke Binkowski, a journalist from Snopes (www.snopes.com), had funny tales to tell about dealing with news, fake news and attacks that were both mental and physical on journalists. Snopes does primary source research on the veracity of claims that started with online myths and morphed to all media. Ms Binkowski practices what she encouraged us to do regularly that is “unplug,” get away from media and the news and connect to life and friends.

The charming 28-year-old Mayor Michael D. Stubbs of Stockton generously spoke in place of a person with a family emergency. His fiancé and friends came to cheer him on in his message to “One: Vote, and Two: Work hard” to bring your message to others. In the short time he’s been in office (since November 2016), Mayor Stubbs has already had to contend with immense financial problems, and with activists who are pushing their own and not the city’s agenda. We all laughed at his inside information about a meeting and donation from the famous Oprah Winfrey. Nancy asked about a concern from her 90-year-old auntie in Stockton to which he shouted, “My base!”
The discussion that will stay with me the longest was a small group about partisanship and how to protect our reputation as a non-partisan entity. The National Convention emphasized that the League is never for or against either candidates or parties. How can we get balance from opposing speakers? How do we get people to speak their minds and handle feelings when partisan comments come up? How do liberal and conservative ideas mesh with Democrat and Republican ideals? It’s certainly not simple.

August 18 was the 97th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, granting American women the right to vote. We are still fighting for equal access at the ballot box—and an alarming trend threatens to roll back what we’ve achieved across the last century. In recent years, we have seen dangerous rollbacks at the state and federal levels. In 2013 the Supreme Court discarded key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This opened the door for states to pass more restrictive voting laws, making it more difficult for Americans to vote. In the years since then, states have pushed more onerous and restrictive photo ID requirements and purged eligible, registered voters from the polls.

The 2016 election was the first presidential race in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act, and we felt that impact. In Ohio, 400,000 registered voters were purged from the rolls without notice. In Florida, North Carolina and Wisconsin, early voting was cut down to mere days. Across the country in 2016, there were more than 800 fewer polling locations to vote in compared to 2012 and 2014.

Attacks on voting rights continue to grow. The Trump Administration has made dangerous unsubstantiated claims that millions of illegal votes were cast in the last election. A commission has been established for the sole purpose of reducing the number of Americans who are registered to vote. Recently the Justice Department reversed their position on the Ohio voter purge.

A recent new poll found that more than half of likely American voters say voter fraud is at least a somewhat serious problem in America today. This is NOT the case. The real problems with our election system are polling place closures, cuts to early voting, restrictive voter ID laws and the illegal purge of registered voters.

We must be vigilant and fight back. Do not be intimidated by this Commission’s false accusations about voter fraud. Do not let their agenda threaten your ability to exercise your right to vote.

Chris Carson, President, LWVUS

For full article and more information go to
http://lwv.org/blog/97th-anniversary-19th-amendment-we-are-still-fighting-equal-voting-rights
Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.
If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to http://lwvmryco.org. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

Renewal letter and form gone astray? Uncertain of your membership due date? Wish to make a donation? Want to become a new member?

Use the form below or contact: Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to LWVMC
Mail to LWVMC PO Box 1995
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels
- $250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- $200 Sojourner Truth
- $150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- $100 Susan B. Anthony
- $ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- $ 65 Single membership

Name(s)
_____________________________________________
Address
_____________________________________________
City                                    State                          Zip Code
_____________________________________________
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☐ Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
☐ Call to remind me of luncheons
☐ Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

We Appreciate Those Who Responded Promptly to Our Request to Renew
New members joining after April 1 and early renewing members were not sent letters. Those joining January 1 to April 1 paid half annual dues rates.

Huge Welcome to Our New Members
Please add to your Members Handbook:
Lee Hulquist, 3039 Sunrise Avenue, Marina CA 93933-4026, 917-3179, hulquist@redshift.com
Nancy Budd Garvan, 108 Glen Lake Drive, Pacific Grove CA 93950-5377, 238-5134, nbuddgarvan@gmail.com
Natalie Gibson, 10175 Sun Star Road, Monterey CA 93940-6508, 649-3865, nat877@aol.com

Welcome Back to a Former Member
Anton Prange, 3850 Rio Road, Apt. 82, Carmel CA 93923-8620, 293-8305, aprange@juno.com

Very Special Thanks to Members Who Included Donations with Renewals
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Level ($150+)
Dennis & Susan Mar ($155)
Carole Erickson & Grace Palmer ($155)
Gillian Taylor & Peter Neumeier ($155)

Susan B. Anthony Level
($100+) Mez Benton ($135) / Marianne Gawain ($135) / Konny Murray ($135) / Anton Prange ($135) / Barbara Baldock & Phil Butler ($105) / Allen & Lyn Rosen ($105) / Amy Anderson & George Somero ($100)

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Whitney Gravel ($35)

Lisa Hoivik LHoivik@comcast.net

League of Women Voters of Monterey County
Office / Board Meetings Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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Jacqueline Jacobberger
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LWVMC The VOTER
Published monthly with summer (June/July/Aug) & winter (Dec) breaks.

Send articles & updates to:
LWVMC Voter Editor
Regina Doyle@aol.com

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(★ = Executive Committee)
LWVMC 2017 Calendar

SEPTEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 11 September, 4:30 pm
contact Nancy Selfridge self48@icloud.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 13 September, 12 noon
"California SB562: Single Payer Healthcare"
contact Nancy Selfridge self48@icloud.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 14 September, 12 noon
contact Geo. Riley GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

Special Events Committee Meeting
Thursday, 21 September, 12:15pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact K. Eoyang Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com

OCTOBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 9 October, 4:30 pm
jlehman@redshift.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 18 October, 12 noon
"Congressman Jimmy Panetta: One Year Update"
Discussion on climate change, redistricting, budget, healthcare, international relations, other topics of local interest.
contact Judi Lehman jlehman@redshift.com

NOVEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 13 November, 4:30 pm
jlehman@redshift.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 8 November, 12 noon
"Measure H2O: Pros & Cons"
Discussion of pros and cons of proposed initiative for Nov 2018 ballot on public ownership Monterey Peninsula water (PublicWaterNow.org)
contact Bev Bean beverlygb@gmail.com