



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

April 2017

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Calendar

Tuesday

April 11, 2017

10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thursday

April 20, 2017

Understanding Substance Use Disorders

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at 11:30; presentation starts at noon

Encompass Community Services

380 Encinal Street, #200

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Free and open to the public

Bring your own lunch

Tuesday

May 9, 2017

10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Saturday

June 10, 2017

10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Annual Meeting

Seascape Golf Club

610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos 95003

Speaker: Susan Nemitz, SCPL Director

SC Libraries in the 21st Century

Hot breakfast buffet: \$20 per person

RSVP with payment by Wednesday, May 31 to:

LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010

Understanding Substance Use Disorders

Featuring Nicole Keadle, Program Coordinator
Community Corrections Partnership Speakers' Bureau
With Speakers' Bureau Participants



Renee Delisle



Paul Maartense

Thursday, April 20, 2017
11:30 am to 1:00 p.m.

Encompass Community Services

380 Encinal Street #200 • Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Free and open to the public • Bring your own lunch

Lunch at 11:30; presentation starts at noon

Substance use disorders affect everyone in our community. The term "substance use disorders" (SUD) describes a broad spectrum of disorders that all involve the overuse of a psychoactive substance resulting in adverse consequences. Substance use disorders are often accompanied by co-occurring mental health problems. Learn more about how treating individuals with SUD can improve all of our lives at "Understanding Substance Use Disorders" on Thursday, April 20, a presentation sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County.

Nicole Keadle, program coordinator for the Community Corrections Partnership Speakers' Bureau through Sobriety Works, will discuss how the Talk About It campaign (talkaboutitscc.org) fosters an informed and compassionate county-wide response to substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. Find out how this community partnership breaks down barriers to treatment in order to improve health and well-being for all in Santa Cruz County.

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Our League Wants You!

If this is the year you have chosen to become involved and make a difference, this is your chance. In order to continue to offer quality programs and to have an active voice in local matters, the League needs members to step up and take part. Members can participate in many ways. If you have limited time, we have “one and done” jobs. If you have a bit more time, we are forming committees to help with program planning and other tasks. For those interested in leadership roles, we have open board positions to fill. We value all our members, but for our League to thrive, we are asking both new and experienced members to help. Many hands make light work!

For more information on how you can make a difference, contact us by email at league@lwvsc.org or phone 831-325-4140. Or, if you prefer, contact a nominating committee member:

Stephanie Harlan: 475-7184

Dottie Fry: 688-9234

Laura Grossman: 475-9442

Peggy Marketello: 423-0782.

Substance Use Disorder Program

Continued from Page 1

You'll hear from two speakers' bureau participants about their journey to recovery from substance use disorders. Paul Maartense, an extraordinary man who has never let life's struggles overcome him, will speak about the connection between substance use disorders and mental illness, and about the ability people have to change if given the chance. Renee Delisle, an inspiring young mother, has used her lived experience and struggles to start over to create a positive change in our community. She will share her recovery experiences and her passion for helping those affected by homelessness and domestic violence.

To learn more about substance use disorders, join the League of Women Voters on Thursday, April 20 at Encompass Community Services, 380 Encinal Street #200, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Bring your own lunch; doors open at 11:30; the presentation will be from noon to 1 pm. The meeting is free and open to the public. Treatment works; recovery happens.

President's Message



After this winter of the highest season rainfall in 122 years, and the massive damage it has wrought on our roads, I have never been so glad to have a winter end and witness the arrival of spring.

Our March 18 program at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, “Living on A Changing Coastline—Adapting to Predicted Sea Level Rise in Santa Cruz

County”, featured an excellent presentation by Ross Clark, Director of the Central Coast Wetlands Group. Following the presentation and an extensive question and answer period, LWVSCC members came to consensus on an update to our local land use position. The position will now include the following statement: “The League supports local government efforts to promote adaptation to climate change and sea level rise.” Thanks to our study committee, chaired by Pam Newbury, which included Jan Karwin, Sue Becker and Kathy Van Horn and myself, and to Karin Grobe for preparing the flyer for the event. I also want to thank the volunteers who arrived early to help set up for the event.

Just as we are all being impacted by changes in our natural environment, most of us find the topic of our April 20 program, “Understanding Substance Use Disorders”, hits close to home. This subject is not academic, impacting so many families and relationships. We encourage you to come to learn how lives are being changed by treatment and about the county's efforts to address substance use disorders.

As I anticipate the future, memories of Ann Wise, who passed away on February 25, are a motivating force. Ann, who served as president of our League from 2007-2010, and as treasurer before that, was very involved in helping with programs on election reform, climate change, and, her particular concern, improving the quality of education in the public schools. I worked closely with her and appreciated her suggestions. Ann and I also worked together on legislative interviews and candidate forums in the San Lorenzo Valley. I knew her from the mid-1970's, both in the League of Women Voters and the community of San Lorenzo Valley.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Remembering Ann Wise

On February 25, League member Ann Wise passed away peacefully at her home in Boulder Creek.

Ann grew up on her family's farm in Visalia, sharing farm chores with her sisters. After graduating from Mount Whitney High School, she attended UC Davis and received a degree in Home Economics, followed by a master's degree in child development and family relations at San Jose State. In 1966, she married Charles Wise, and they moved to Boulder Creek.

In the mid-1970s, a neighbor introduced Ann to the League. Ann's initial interest was in child care, but her first League job was in Voter Service in the year that Leon Panetta, Sam Farr, and Henry Mello were running for office, which kept her very busy. The most interesting event was when the League helped to moderate candidate forums that were broadcast on Channel 8.

Ann's interest in child care and education led to her run for the local school board, a position she held for over 17 years, during which time her League involvement was minimal. Soon after she retired from the school board, Morgan Rankin recruited her to run for League treasurer, a position she held for five years. She also spent two years working on the California LWV Education Update Study Committee, a project that gave her a broader view of the League from her local experiences. After a year off, Morgan again asked her to run for the League board, this time as president, a position she held from 2007 to 2010.

Ann has always put education at the forefront, being firmly in favor of putting forth more resources to educate all children, regardless of whether a child is here legally or not. She emphasized the importance of giving young people the resources to take care of themselves through education. Ann saw the value of using our resources up front this way, thus benefiting society by producing adults who will be productive members of our community.

Ann's legacy will live on through her work to affirm the value of education, and her example as a person who dedicated her life to her community and her family.

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

[Read more about Ann](#) in her obituary published in *Santa Cruz Sentinel* on Mar. 17, 2017.



Legislative Interview: State Senator Bill Monning

On February 3, 2017, six League members interviewed state senator Bill Monning: Marcia Minnihan, Dorothy Fry, and Audie Henry from our League, and Judy Chamberlain, Susan McKuhen, and Gloria Chun Hoo from the San Jose/Santa Clara League. Senator Monning answered three questions posed by the LWV of California and one question about personal and legislative priorities.

Monning supports public funding of elections, possibly through a tax checkoff, but feels it doesn't have enough support to pass in the legislature and would need to be enacted through a ballot initiative. Regarding the administration of elections, Monning stated that there are expenses embedded in the process, such as multi-language ballots. Expanding vote-by-mail (VBM) will save counties election expense, however, he is concerned about needs of the disabled, those needing language support, and populations previously excluded being comfortable with VBM. The senator's efforts to reinstate funding for elections by the state did not succeed; future state funding of elections is unlikely due to projected budgetary shortfalls.



Members from San Jose/Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County Leagues interviewed State Senator Bill Monning. From left to right: Marcia Minnihan, Susan McKuhen, Dorothy Fry, Gloria Chun Hoo, Bill Monning, Judy Chamberlain, and Audie Henry.

Monning hopes to continue the 2016 budget in allotting more money for higher education than for prisons. He feels that no qualified California student should be turned down in favor of out-of-state students, as has been pledged by University of California President Napolitano (although applicants may not be accepted by their first-choice campus). One step toward supporting California residents' admission to University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses would be to better align credit transfers from community

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colleges. According to Monning, while UC Regents approved a 2.5% increase in tuition, per-unit costs are still the least in the nation. While Monning unsuccessfully sponsored legislation to cap salaries of UC chancellors and CSU presidents, he believes that the only real solution is through tax reform.

Asked about water resources, one of his top legislative priorities, Monning expressed support for legislation on comprehensive groundwater resource management. He also supports exploring the use of desalination, which he believes will become more environmentally viable with future research and development. The senator is concerned about water quality, particularly in smaller communities with fewer financial resources, such as Watsonville, which is facing nitrate and chromium 6 water contamination. He will be introducing legislation to fund efforts to help smaller communities achieve clean water.

In addition to adequate clean water supplies for all, Monning's legislative priorities include health care issues, support for the immigrant population, and reduction of lead exposure.

Repeal of the Affordable Care Act concerns Monning because the loss of the \$1.9 billion California receives for Medicaid cannot be backfilled by the State. Repeal of the ACA could result in loss of preventative care and coverage for children. Preventative care is financially effective, and a human right as well. Possible reinstatement of lifetime caps concerns Monning because high medical bills are a leading cause of bankruptcy.

Monning plans to reintroduce legislation requiring beverages with a certain percentage of added sugar to state on the label that they could contribute to type-2 diabetes and tooth decay, the goal being informed choice for consumers.

Senator Monning supports training contractors who remodel of older homes in protecting both workers and inhabitants, especially children, from exposure to lead.

Monning expressed concern about executive orders that eliminate due process for undocumented workers, creating fear of immigration raids. The California Senate is currently considering a bill to provide money from the state's general fund to provide legal defense for non-violent, non-documented individuals, and another to prevent California agencies from sharing an individual's religious affiliation with the federal government. Senate Bill 54 would define what state resources may or may not be used to support Immigration and Customs Enforcement (SB54, the California Values Act, is supported by the California LWV).

He noted that the LWV could help by expanding voter registration and emphasizing the importance of an individual's vote.

—Dorothy Fry, Voter Service Co-Chair

Library Update at Annual Meeting

It's not too early to RSVP for our June annual meeting on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Seascap Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive in Aptos. Featured speaker, Susan Nemitz, director of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, will update us on plans to improve library facilities after the voters passed measure S, a 67-million-dollar library bond.

Send your reservation by Wednesday, May 31, with a check for \$20 per person made out to LWVSCC, to:

*LWVSCC
P.O. Box 1745,
Capitola, CA 95010*

For more information: league@lwvsc.org 831-325-4140



On February 2, League members from San Jose/Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County interviewed California Assembly Member Mark Stone. From Left to right: Leslie Hallenbeck, Marcia Minnihan, Sandy Mory, Mark Stone, Marie Arnold, Barbara Lewis, and Sue Becker. A summary of the interview appeared in our [February/March 2017 VOTER](#) which can be viewed at lwvsc.org.

Smart Strategies for a Graceful Retreat from Rising Seas

Avoiding Coastal Squeeze and the Swiss Cheese Approach

“The climate is changing. End of discussion.” With those sobering words, Ross Clark began his exploration of projected coastal climate hazards facing Santa Cruz County and its municipalities at a talk sponsored by our League on March 18. Clark, director of the Central Coast Wetlands Group, has been a key figure in local studies on sea level rise and climate change planning. Clark continued, “We are now trying to understand what our future looks like, and how we can be smart about adapting to those changes.” His goal is to encourage public participation in this dialog, beginning with an understanding of our vulnerabilities.

Watch a [video of Ross Clark’s presentation](#), including the question and answer session, and download a [PDF of the slides](#) at lwvsc.org/videos.

For more information about climate change predictions, view a [video of our January 2016 program](#), “Our Changing Climate and the California Coast”, by Dr. Gary Griggs and Dr. Michael Orbach, at lwvsc.org/videos or read the report in [our February 2016 VOTER](#) (page 3).

While planning for the changes that will happen, it’s important to understand that we can mitigate some of the damage by continuing to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Climate models predict that, by 2100, our region can expect sea level rise of anywhere from over a foot (taking significant and immediate action to reduce greenhouse gasses) to over five feet (business as usual). “Unfortunately,” warned Clark, “globally, we’re following the red line [business as usual] right now.”

To get an idea of how sea level rise will affect our county in the future, Clark suggested viewing the interactive maps developed by The Nature Conservancy at coastalresilience.org. Maps for the [Monterey Bay](#) region show hazards from storm flooding, dune erosion, cliff erosion, and high tides over three different time horizons: 2030, 2060 and 2100. The Monterey Bay Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study extrapolates what those maps mean for the people who live in the region and quantifies those results, using 2010 data as “time zero”.

Some hazards are specific events, such as storm and river floods, and the effects are temporary. The damage can be repaired; communities recover and

move on. The uncertainty is how frequent these events will be in the future, and that’s something Clark says we really don’t know. Other hazards, such as tidal inundation and cliff erosion, have permanent impacts, “You’re really not going to redo your carpet every month,” quipped Clark.

According to Clark, different assets within our community, be it land use or infrastructure or industry, are vulnerable to different hazards at different times. Low-lying farmland currently faces greatest risk from coastal storm flooding. For much of the coast, rising tides don’t pose significant threats, but low-lying areas, such as the Pajaro Valley, face significant risk associated with rising tides that will accompany higher sea levels.



Ross Clark discusses smart adaptation to rising seas.

In the 2030 timeframe, threats from cliff erosion are not significant, largely due to seawalls already in place. Currently, coastal storm flooding poses a larger hazard, with significant numbers of vulnerable residential and commercial properties. In Rio Del Mar and Capitola, waves crashing over our current seawalls are predicted to become more and more of a flooding hazard into the future. Storm flooding, exacerbated by sea level rise, is predicted to increase as warming oceans cause storms to increase in intensity.

In Santa Cruz County, coastal erosion causes great concern because of our aggressive coastal development. Where coastal armoring currently doesn’t exist, buildings will be vulnerable sooner, but,

Clark stressed, “By 2060 the current seawalls will have given their all, and their lifespan will have been far over. We, as a community, or individuals as homeowners, are going to have to make a policy decision on whether we replace those seawalls in the same location, or we take some other adaptive strategy moving forward.” Loss of the county’s eight or so miles of seawall puts about 700 million dollars in property at risk.

Significant public infrastructure in harm’s way includes roads, highways, rail, storm drains, drinking water pipes, and waste water pipes. By 2100, over two billion dollars in county resources will be at risk unless they are protected. To do so, we would need to build eight miles of new seawalls soon after 2060 at an estimated cost, in today’s dollars, of 410 million dollars. This includes over three miles of new armoring just to protect highway 1 along the north coast, if we want to keep in in the same place it is now.

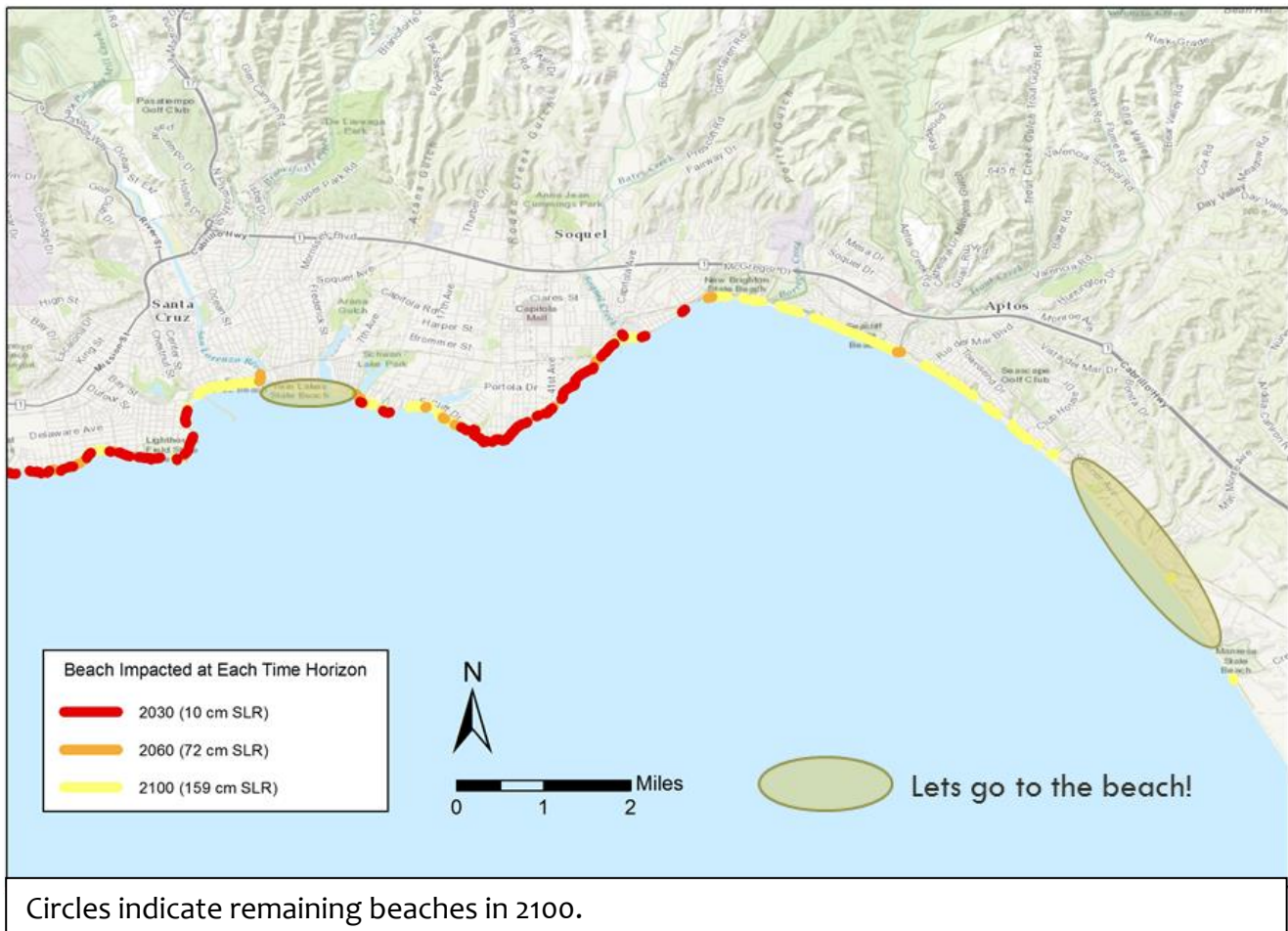
Clark moved into a discussion of adaptation strategies we might use to make smart decisions. Possibilities range from holding the line in order to protect everything at all costs, to removing structures and infrastructure as damage occurs. Innovative “soft” strategies include improving our dune habitat

and beach nourishment. Regulatory and planning tools could be used to prevent building new infrastructure and structures where they will be in harm’s way.

Managing coastal retreat will bring difficult choices between protecting homes and maintaining our beaches. Homeowners with clifftop properties will want to install riprap to prevent cliff erosion from taking their property. But rising tides will begin to narrow the beach in front of the cliff, which in California is public property, and cliff armoring will accelerate that process. Clark refers to this as “coastal squeeze,” where the back shore is solid, the ocean is rising and migrating inland, and what happens is that the beach or our transition areas are the thing that continue to shrink until we have no beach at all.”

This creates a conflict where there’s a desire to protect private property or public infrastructure, and, in addition to the cost of construction and concerns about using public resources to protect private property, we lose part of our beach, a resource that we all value.

In the next 10 years, Clark predicts we’ll see proposals to protect properties vulnerable to cliff retreat. Then, because seawalls cause effects up-coast and down-coast, it becomes a progression towards



armoring all along our cliffs. If we protect everything by holding the line, by the end of the century, we could lose much of our usable beach within the Monterey Bay portion of the county, and future beachgoers will be left with only two choices for a sandy beach: by the harbor or south to Manresa.

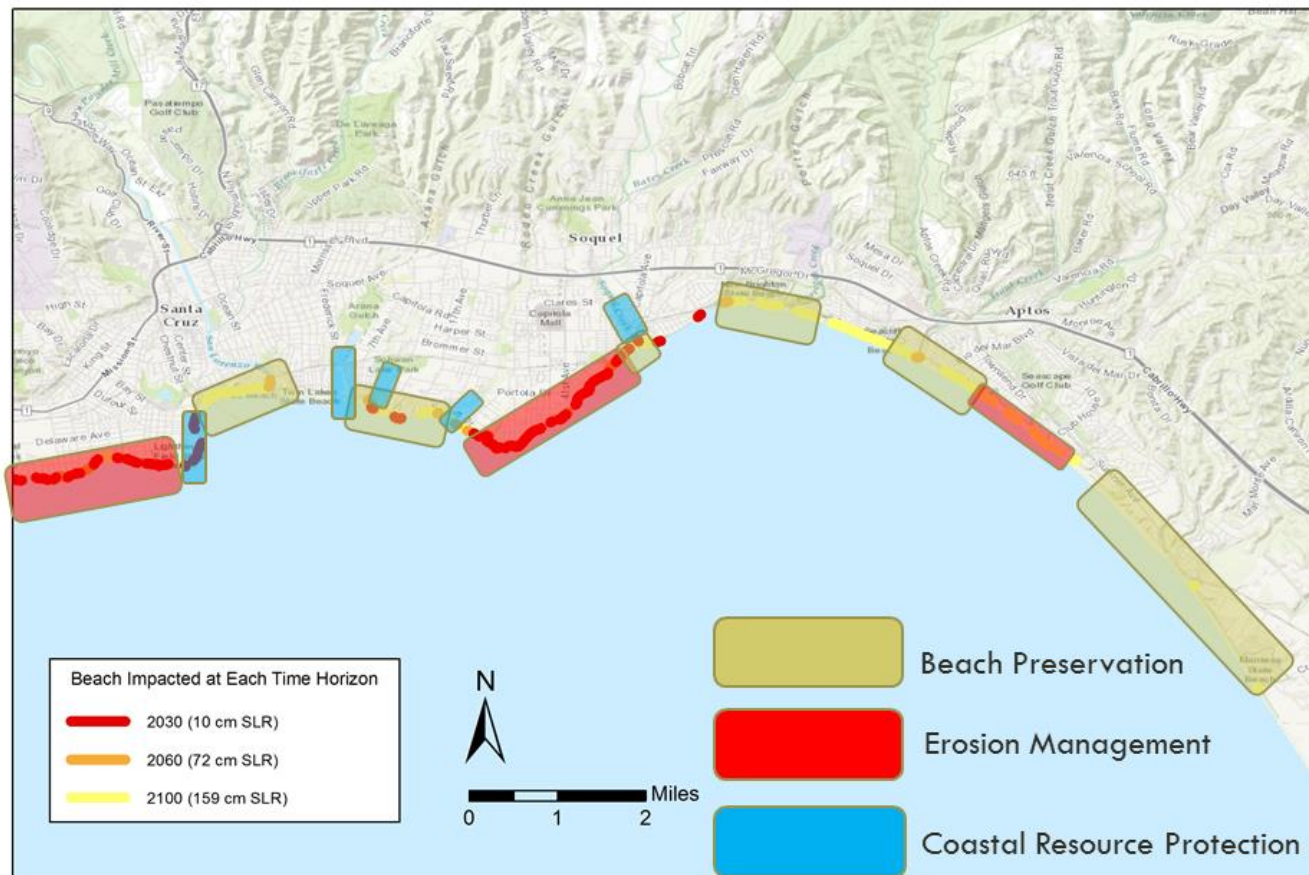
In areas where no new armoring is installed, cliff erosion will progress inland, and, while we will lose some homes or have to move them away from the cliff, we may have a nice pocket beach. Then the neighbors on either side will want to put up walls on the sides of the pocket beach, creating “a ramp for waves”. In the worst cases, where no action is taken, erosion will increase inland unmanaged. Clark calls this the “swiss cheese” approach, creating “holes here and there along the coastline”.

To avoid either of these scenarios, Clark proposes carefully considering what areas we preserve as beaches and what areas we protect. Heavily populated areas with lots of homes along the coast could be where we “hold the line” with continued erosion control. In other areas, such as the Santa Cruz main beach, Capitola beach, east cliff, and Rio Del Mar, we may want to prioritize protecting the beach.

Other resources to consider are the harbor, rivers, lagoons, and surfing spots.

Adaptation to rising tides is a key consideration for many of our agricultural areas to the south—Moss Landing, Castroville, and the lower Salinas Valley—where incredibly rich farmlands are an important economic driver of the region. Even now, these extremely low areas are vulnerable to flooding; by 2100, much of the lower Salinas Valley is predicted to be under water. The use of flood gates can minimize flooding at high tide, but how well they’ll work while still allowing the river to flow through is in question.

Since 1995, the Central Coast Wetlands Group, Moss Landing Marine Labs, and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation have been acquiring properties and easements in vulnerable low-lying areas for resource management or restoration. While not originally conceived as an adaptation strategy, having a restored wetland is a valuable transition. An under-appreciated protective strategy is preservation and restoration of coastal dunes between Moss Landing and the river mouth, an important barrier to coastal impacts for the entire Salinas Valley. Efforts are underway to remove



With smart planning, we can preserve beaches throughout Santa Cruz County.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

____ \$65 Individual annual membership
____ \$100.00 Two members in a household
____ \$30.00 Student membership
____ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

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*League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County*

*PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
(831) 325-4140*

Editor: Pam Newbury

President: Barbara Lewis

Membership: Peggy Marketello

league@lwvsc.org

<http://lwvsc.org>

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.

invasive, non-native ice plant and restore native habitat. Natural dunes create a gentle slope, reducing the energy of the wave as it goes up the slope. Ice plant creates hardened, steep-fronted dunes where waves can come crashing up and undercut the dunes, removing sand and causing catastrophic failure of the foredunes. Trails that head straight from parking lots to the beach exacerbate the problem, causing additional erosion and becoming a ramp for future flooding.

Clark closed by looking at key strategies for implementing a graceful retreat. Adaptation to sea level rise starts with not putting more things in harm's way. When planning for publicly-owned infrastructure, let's make sure we it won't be vulnerable, either by design or placement. All new buildings should be designed to be resilient to predicted hazards. Upgrading storm drains, to prevent them from becoming conduits for flood waters to come further inland, would reduce flooding in low-lying areas.

We must start a community conversation about how we prioritize coastal protection and consider what the cumulative effect of uncoordinated individual actions will be. And if those effects aren't what we want, develop an alternative strategy that creates a better outcome.

"We need to identify priority areas for future protection," Clark concluded, "accounting for cost, structural feasibility, and secondary implications, those being loss of beach and habitat. We should be thinking about all of those issues in total now, so that we're not responding to emergency situations indefinitely. We need to identify priority areas for managed retreat to retain sufficient beach area for recreational use and, understand what kinds of programs we need to put in place to accommodate the land owners that may find themselves in such a designated area.

"Further in we need to actually implement the managed retreat strategies that we set into place. It would be nice for people to understand what those are far before they're going to be implemented, so that property valuation and individual investors can understand what is to come in the long-term future. We need to look at how we're going to realign municipal infrastructure. It probably is not worth the price to protect it. It's easier and cheaper to actually move it. We need to strive for equitability because there are public and private stakes that all need to be respected. We need to come up with the most cost-effective way to get to what we want the coast to look like by 2060."

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

Position Updated

This program concluded our mini-study to update our positions to reflect the effects of climate change and adapting to sea level rise. After Ross Clark's presentation, LWVSCC members agreed to add the following statement to our Land Use position:

The League supports local government efforts to promote adaptation to climate change and sea level rise.

Having a position on climate change and sea level rise will allow our League to weigh in on future plans for climate change adaptation and take positions on any future proposed laws and regulations.