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**Tuesday**  
**February 2**  
**OLIVER BAINES**  
**“REDUX” for sure**  
**POLICE REFORM**  
**5:30 Zoom**  
**See page 9**  
**A link will be sent**

**Monday, February 8**  
4 p.m., Zoom  
Board meeting

**Tuesday, February 23**  
5 p.m., Zoom  
*Program Planning*  
See pages 4,5

**HAPPY**  
**VALENTINES**  
**DAY**



**The**

*Our 80th Year!*

**FRESNO**

**VOTER**

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*Now More Than Ever . . .*

*we need to hear from our members*

**Help us select League local and state  
priorities for the coming year**

**Tuesday, February 23, 5:00 p.m.**

*More information on pages 4-5*

**A zoom link will be sent to  
you**



# President's Message



The pandemic has amplified disparities between communities of color and white communities, between poor Californians and those who are better off. The wealthiest among us have been inconvenienced by Covid-19, but we have not suffered the losses of income, of shelter, and of hope for the future that many have. One of the questions the state League has asked us to pose to local legislators this year is about the Covid-19 recovery process. *What can be done to ensure that California's Covid -9 economic recovery is equitable and focuses on the needs of those most impacted?*

The first consideration here is realizing that returning California's most vulnerable populations to their pre-Covid situations is not enough. Our state's poor were overburdened by rent, subject to inadequate healthcare, choked by hazardous environmental conditions in their neighborhoods, held back by limited educational opportunities, and more before Covid-19. Getting back to that "normal" cannot be on the table; we have to move toward reducing the extreme inequities between communities in our state.

One of the existing programs that support low income families is the Earned Income Tax Credit. Available at both the Federal and State levels, this program gives parents whose earnings are below the poverty level a refund of taxes withheld from their paychecks during the year. While generally praised as raising millions of working poor out of poverty, EITC is also blamed for depressing wages, since parents must work, no matter the wage, to benefit from the program. Further expansion of the California EITC is proposed as one Covid-19 relief measure.

A controversial but increasingly enticing program is universal basic income (UBI). a government program where adults receive a set amount of money on a regular basis. The goal is to alleviate poverty and replace other need-based programs that require government bureaucracies. Presidential candidate Andrew Yang proposed \$1000 UBI to all Americans as part of his platform. Since 1982 Alaska has given each of its residents an annual share of its mineral royalties; the City of Stockton successfully established an experimental UBI of \$500 for 125 poor families this year; and Spain has instituted cash payments to 850,000 poor families in the wake of Covid-19.

If we are looking toward improving the lives of California's struggling residents following the mass unemployment we've seen this year, universal basic income seems to be a realistic choice. With Governor Newsome's announcement last month of a \$15B surplus in this year's state budget, it seems like the right time for basic income subsidies for needy Californians.

*-Marianne*



## NOTORIOUS RBG SCHOLARSHIP

Donations for the Farber/League partnership scholarship fund at San Joaquin College of Law are welcome. Make out your check to LWVF and write RBG in the memo line. We will forward it to the College.



**Generous donations for the RBG Fund have been made this month by:**

**Cleo Bauer and Dominic Papagni**

**Drs. Kay and Richard Bertken**

**Andrea and Dr. Rodrigo De Zubiria**

**In honor of Francine's birthday**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Donations are a great gift for any occasion. LWVF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your gift and membership are tax deductible and gratefully accepted.**



**Please remember us in your estate planning.** Help us continue the fight to defend and build participation in the democratic process. You can designate a gift amount now, or state a gift as a percentage, which will automatically adjust no matter what the future may bring.



**The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Fresno**  
**Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710**  
**Volume 80, No. 2 Editor: Francine M. Farber**

# Education

by Kay Bertken



Next Board Meetings  
February 3 and 17

As Covid school closures around the country have exacerbated food insecurity for many children and their families, Fresno Unified along with community partners has continued to distribute meals at many school sites even during the winter holiday vacation. Food distributions continue with students and the Board returning for the spring semester of a complicated year.

## Additional funds for return

While the district was on break, Governor Newsom presented a budget that included \$2 billion to boost a return to face-to-face instruction, beginning with the youngest and special education students first. He has offered \$450 per child-- augmented for schools serving at risk populations of low income, English Learners, foster and homeless youth—for Covid related accommodations. He has also proposed state support and monitoring for safety. Superintendents of California's big districts—LA, Fresno, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento — have all complained that this plan exacerbates inequalities. Smaller, wealthier, less virus-impacted districts could get this funding, while many of these big districts will not qualify because of much higher case rates.



FUSD has adhered to its plan that distance learning will last until Covid case rates drop into the orange zone. Fresno's strong teacher's union has been a partner in that determination. Small cohorts of students who need broadband and computer access are on campuses for those services. Even so, there have been 18 reported student cases and 253 teachers testing positive for the virus.

Clovis Unified has brought back elementary students on a waiver for a hybrid education experience (part-day face-to face, part-day online). It has recently delayed a decision to bring secondary students back to the classroom on the advice of the Health Department. 101 Clovis students and 337 employees have tested positive, more than half of those in December.

At their first meeting of the new year, FUSD trustees were scheduled to vote on approval of two new charter

schools--Aspen Ridge Public School (a high school) and Golden Charter Academy (a TK-8 school.) The Board approved a four-year authorization for Aspen rather than the standard five because of some continuing concern over the education program and the financial viability of the school.

## Trustee on charter school board

Golden Charter Academy proposed a program in partnership with the Chafee Zoo, targeting at-risk students in central Fresno. Founders include Robert Golden and Keisha Thomas (a FUSD trustee and Robert Golden's mother-in-law) . Trustee Thomas will serve on the Board of the school. She recused herself from all discussions and votes relative to the school. The trustees voted to table approval until updated financial statements were included in the petition.

Planning is nearly complete for the new FUSD educational campus on Ventura and 10<sup>th</sup>, the old Juvenile Hall property. The new facility will contain the district's alternative education schools— Cambridge, JE Young and the eLearn Academy-- plus multiple district department offices. 1,200 alternative education students will each have access to an array of CTE programs in addition to academic courses.

## Mentoring program

Fresno Unified has a robust mentoring program connecting thousands of students a year to community mentors in a variety of programs. They continue to solicit community volunteers through the district website. Community participation is also being solicited at eleven scheduled townhall meetings



California State Assembly member Marc Berman and the Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education hosted a webinar discussion of the impediments to transfer among the state's college systems. The discussants enumerated the problems confronting students and some promising solutions.

[kayb@csufresno.edu](mailto:kayb@csufresno.edu)

# Let us hear your voice at Program Planning Tuesday, February 23, 5:00 p.m.



Help us choose our priorities for the coming year.

Then sign up to be on a committee that educates and advocates for them.

If a priority doesn't get volunteers, it won't go forward.

Here are some topics that will be discussed at Program Planning.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The Fresno Police Reform Commission of 37 individuals was led by former councilman Oliver Baines. The commission made 78 recommendations including relying on clinicians and trained medical professionals instead of police officers to answer calls related to behavioral health; placing restrictions on officers' use of deadly force; ensuring greater diversity when hiring officers; and ending contracts for policing with school districts.

It will now be up to the city council and mayor whether to implement these and many other recommendations and how to do so. The League can play a part in understanding the recommendations and helping to educate the public about them, and deciding on advocacy.



**Presented by Luisa Medina, Member  
Fresno Police Reform Commission**



**Climate Change  
Land Use  
Water Concerns**



**Presented by Diane Merrill,  
Director for Water Issues, LWVF**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Our Climate Action Committee educates League members about issues pertinent to the Valley. In April, the committee will host a presentation on climate and economic improvements to impoverished areas of Fresno funded by a \$66.5 million grant from the Transformative Climate Communities program.

In 2021, League members anticipate they will review and comment on 5,000 pages of land use policy and environmental data related to three projects: the CEMEX proposal to mine the San Joaquin River bottom near Friant, the update of the Fresno County General Plan and the court-ordered revision of the EIR for the Friant Ranch housing development.

Water activities include continuing participation in the LWVC Water Committee while focusing on local matters such as implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Urban Water Plan development.

**More Program Planning topics**   
on Page 5

**Let us hear your voice at Program Planning  
Tuesday, February 23, 5:00 p.m.**



### HOMELESSNESS

The number of homeless people in the Fresno area ranks among the highest in the nation and the numbers continue to rise. More people live in places not suitable for human habitation such as cars, abandoned buildings, the streets or in encampments.

Homelessness is a complex issue made even worse by the presence of Covid 19. Causes for people becoming homeless include the loss of employment, addiction to drugs and alcohol, divorce, eviction and mental and/or physical health issues.

The goals of a Homelessness Committee might include: addressing the causes; reviewing the local agencies providing services to the homeless; with the help of local experts in the field finding what is effective and what is not; and educating the public and advocating for solutions.



**Presented by Nyla Zender**

**Past President; Chair, Housing Committee**

### REDISTRICTING

This year distribution of the census data used in redistricting will be delayed due to the pandemic and other complications. Thus the California Supreme Court granted the legislature's emergency petition for an extension to the August 15 deadline for completion and certification of statewide district maps until December 15, 2021.



Fresno County's charter requires that changes to supervisorial district boundaries be made within one year of a general election, i.e. November 3, 2021. It too may be impacted by delays in census data availability. State boundaries drawn in 2011 were praised for being presented by a citizens' commission with minimal partisan bias and criticized for inadequate minority representation and failure to make districts more compact. Locally county supervisorial boundaries have been minimally changed in decades despite population growth.

A redistricting priority would review criteria for selecting district boundaries and develop a list of improvements to be presented to both state and county redistricting commissions .

**Presented by Liz Shields**

**Vice President for Voter Services**

### PRE-K AND CHILD CARE



In recognition that much of a child's life trajectory is established before formal schooling begins, LWVF previously adopted early childhood education and care as a priority. Especially since Covid, but also before, demand has outstripped available childcare in Fresno County. Since schools have closed there is also unmet demand for school-aged care.

While demand is high, the number of licensed providers has declined. There is currently space for just 23% of children aged 0 to 12, and only 15% of infants and toddlers. Participation in quality preschool programs in the public schools has also been set back by COVID. All of this has a disproportionate impact on low-income families.

We would like to continue prioritizing and assisting in finding solutions to the quality and supply problems we are facing.

**Presented by Kay Bertken**

**Chair, Education Committee**

**Do you have other ideas? We want to hear them at the Program Planning meeting!**

**We will also forward ideas to LWVC as the state League attempts to establish its own priorities for the year.**

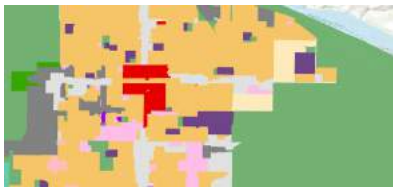
## Update on Fresno County

### General Plan by Radley Reep

Last month the County of Fresno restarted its 15-year effort to amend the General Plan.

On January 15 the County filed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) with the state of California, satisfying the statutory requirement that the County invite the public to assist in determining the scope and content of the accompanying environmental impact report, i.e., to help the County identify the negative effects that could occur as a result of plan implementation.

In 2005 the County initiated a one-year review of the General Plan as a way to keep the plan relevant and consistent with state laws, but that process faltered badly. The review limped along in fits and starts and



was never completed.

The County is now proposing to reboot that undertaking. However, owing to the passing of 15 years, the type of review begun in 2005 is no longer appropriate. Because the General Plan (last updated in 2000) was designed with a 20-year planning horizon, it's now time to comprehensively update the plan and extend the planning horizon another 20 years.

The deadline to comment on the scope of work for the environmental review of the County's revised General Plan is March 1 by 5:00 pm. You should be able to find out more about the project by going to the County's NOP webpage:

[www.co.fresno.ca.us/gpr](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/gpr)

However, as of the date the NOP was published, the draft 2020-2040 General Plan was unavailable for public review. In addition, the NOP did not include a discussion of potential environmental effects, as required by law. If these oversights are not corrected quickly, the public may find it impossible to meaningfully respond to the NOP by the due date, March 1.

[radleyreep@netzero.com](mailto:radleyreep@netzero.com)

## Water News

by Diane Merrill



Along with surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams, groundwater that accumulates in underground aquifers is a major source of water for California's communities and farms, and for the environment. In California, some local groundwater levels are critically declining. **Groundwater provides 40 percent of California's water supply in normal years, and up to 60 percent during dry years.** In some California communities, groundwater is the only source of tap water for household use.

In the midst of the severe 2012-2016 drought, the California legislature passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to address the rapid decline of groundwater levels that was occurring mainly in agricultural areas. The Act requires local water agencies, cities and counties in areas with significant groundwater depletion to form groundwater sustainability agencies and to develop groundwater sustainability plans to achieve groundwater sustainability over a twenty year planning horizon.

A groundwater plan must contain a water budget ensuring that ultimately, the amount of water leaving an aquifer is balanced by the amount of water recharged.



The plans must monitor and manage groundwater levels, groundwater quality, land subsidence, surface and groundwater interconnections, and saltwater intrusion in coastal areas. The agencies are required to consider the interests of all local groundwater users as they develop and implement their plans.

Critically overdrafted groundwater basins, most in the San Joaquin Valley and Central California coastal areas, completed their plans in 2020. Other high and medium priority basins have until 2022 to complete their plans. Some groundwater basins, mostly in Southern California, are adjudicated and are not required to develop plans.

*(continued on page 10)*

## Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



The Behavioral Health Board hosted a Public Hearing on the Mental Health Services Act Three Year Plan 2020-2023 & Annual Update 2019-2020. Due to Covid-19 the report for 2019-2020 was delayed, so coincides with the Three Year Plan for 2020-2023.

The Act's funding is based on 1% tax revenues on annual incomes over a million dollars; because of the pandemic it is expected that those revenues will be reduced for the next few years. Therefore, the Department is not planning for any new programs that may not be sustainable. Some existing funds are available for Innovation projects, which the Department will pursue. Several existing programs will be retired for reasons such as utilization, costs, and outcomes.

During the discussion, there were few comments from the public except in opposition to discontinuing the Community Gardens that the Act has funded for the past eight years. The Gardens are contracted by different providers, and are utilized primarily by underserved populations. The Department reports that it is difficult to collect data and record outcomes to meet State requirements. It is hoped that a new design for Therapeutic Gardens will be created so that this popular program will be revived in the future.

Though there were some questions, the Behavioral Health Board approved the plan so that it can move forward to the Board of Supervisors, and then to the State for approval.

### *At its annual workshop the Board selected these 2021 Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:*

1. Educate and inform the community about behavioral health services that are available, along with a navigation system for accessing those services.
2. Implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law) for individuals who do not respond to existing programs.
3. Expand housing inventory at all levels of need, including board and care, room and board, permanent supportive housing, and sober living homes.
4. Establish inpatient Substance Use Disorder treatment programs for individuals with Severe Mental Illness.
5. Implement the Peer Support Specialist Certification [evansalca@comcast.net](mailto:evansalca@comcast.net)

## Climate Change

by Lenore Yousef



The Biden administration has designated climate change as one of its top priorities, as did the LWVUS at its 2020 convention. The latter's climate team consists of members from across the U.S. The national sub-teams are:

**Carbon Pricing; Food, Soils, and Agriculture  
Wildfire; Climate Justice  
Renewable Energy; Climate Action Plans  
Transportation; Water  
Health and Climate; Oceans**

For information on the national sub-teams, visit the state league's national LWV climate team site.



Another national team reviews congressional legislation and other climate policies. In order for issues or legislation to be evaluated, they must potentially have a broad effect and be passable.

### **An Invitation**

Climate change is a huge challenge facing the world. Unlike the pandemic which will hopefully be resolved with the vaccines, there is no ready and available fix for climate change. In response to the climate crisis, committees have sprung up at state and local levels. Fresno formed a climate action committee dedicated to educating ourselves and the public about climate change issues in our Valley and about local policies being presented to address climate change.

We are hosting a renewable energy presentation, with emphasis on electrification of transportation and home appliances, at our February 10 meeting. A presentation on April 23 will inform our community about improvements made to impoverished areas in Fresno, funded by a \$66.5 million grant from the Transformative Climate Communities program.

If you are interested in joining our local effort to combat climate change, send an email to me and I will send you the meeting link on Zoom. \*\*\*\* Check us out.

[lenorey@csufresno.edu](mailto:lenorey@csufresno.edu)

# Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed on March 21, 2010 entirely by the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate. The goal was to stop medical bankruptcies. The two components were an expansion of Medicaid recipients, the cost of which would be 90% funded by the federal government for the first decade; and state-based insurance marketplaces wherein uninsured could purchase plans with possible income-based subsidies, or decline insurance with tax penalties due to non-participation.

The ACA has indeed reduced medical bankruptcies and improved health care for Americans but is now under threat by a suit before the Supreme Court, *California vs Texas*, initiated by the Attorney Generals of 18 states and opposed by a similar number. California's own Xavier Becerra, the nominee for AG for the Biden cabinet, is the lead AG opposing Ken Paxton, the Texas AG who assisted a challenge to the Biden election victory. Texas has the largest number of uninsured people of any state.

While reviled by numerous legislators and state executives, the ACA was intricately negotiated with all the stakeholders. The Health Plans of America, the American Medical Association, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and the American Association of Retired People were all behind it. Over the last decade, they have continued to support it. Notably, the Health Plans modified their business models to accommodate the ACA's consumer-oriented insurance market reforms. Across the nation their plans generally

powered the ACA insurance marketplaces.

In June 2012, the Supreme Court found that the ACA did not violate constitutional rules governing interstate commerce because it fined individuals opting out of mandated coverage. However, the Medicaid expansion was adjudged to be "unduly coercive" to the states, making state acceptance of the Medicaid expansion optional. As a result, initially 20 states declined to participate in that component of the ACA. Rethinking the situation, over the last six years eight additional states signed on, leaving twelve states, including Texas, as ACA renegades.

Full implementation of the ACA gained momentum starting in 2014 and by the end of 2019 about 11 million Americans obtained their insurance through ACA exchanges and 12 million through the Medicaid expansion.



Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 succeeded in eliminating the fines for not buying health insurance. This would increase the ACA insurance premiums because of a diminished pool of young, healthy people participating in the risk pools. The Tax Act also eliminated sources of income to help pay for the ACA: taxes on medical devices and on "Cadillac" health plans.

The next step of the ardent opponents of the ACA was to propose that, ab-

sent a mandate enforced by penalties, there was no functional mandate. Lacking a mandate, according to this reasoning, the ACA could not function as intended and was unconstitutional in not achieving a goal worthy of promotion in the absence of directions from our Constitution. In December 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Texas found that the mandate is no longer constitutional because the associated financial penalty no longer "produces at least some revenue" for the federal government.

So far, the fine-free mandate still is on the books, and sufficient Americans are buying ACA health insurance to steady the ship. There is a trend toward buying higher-deductible and copay plans, but overall, the state marketplaces are working as planned. Oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in November suggested that a majority of the justices would *not* support the lower court finding for any element of the ACA. We will not know until the formal judgement is issued five months from now. Health care for 23 million Americans is at stake.

The 18 state AGs' obsessive prosecution of the ACA is clearly not attributable to fiscal conservatism. Adopting all the ACA is to every state's budgetary advantage, even in the long term when states must assume financial responsibility for their larger Medicaid population. This is especially true when there is no alternative unifying health plan for America. This looks more like clan conservatism, rejecting insurance that provides extended coverage for mental and cognitive health and for women's reproductive options while charging more than usual for those who believe in only paying for what they think they need.

[Drbertken@comcast.net](mailto:Drbertken@comcast.net)





When our Centennial Celebration Committee selected 100 Notable Women from our area, we knew their achievements weren't over. Periodically we'll tell you about their current contributions to society.

**Lynne Ashbeck** is an incumbent candidate for re-election to Clovis City Council . The election will be held on March 2.

**Armen Bacon** co-authored a fourth book titled: "The Words Between Us - A Pandemic Abecedarius.". She is also teaching a Fresno State Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course: "Embracing the Journey: Writing Your Heart Out"

**Dr. Tanya Fisher**, Supt of schools in Selma, has retired from that position.

**Deborah Ikeda** was re-elected to the position of trustee of the State Center Community College District.

**Luisa Medina** served on the Fresno County Commission on Police Reform. She will be making a brief presentation on this topic at our Program Planning meeting on February 23.

**Brandi Orth**, Fresno County Registrar of Voters and County Clerk, is retiring at the end of this month and moving to North Carolina to care for her mother.

**Ruthie Quinto**, Fresno Unified CFO and Deputy Superintendent, has retired and is living in Monterey with her family.

**OLIVER BAINES TO SPEAK**

**Oliver Baines will be speaking to the League at a special meeting on February 2 at 5:30 p.m. about the 73 recommendations from the Fresno Police Reform Commission. Baines unexpectedly was unable to attend the meeting last month.**



**Baines will talk about the implementation process and which recommendations are likely to be put into effect. A Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the meeting.**



**BETTE NOBLETT**



**Bette Noblett**, past president of LWVF, passed away on January 3 at age 85. First joining the League in 1970, from 1983-85 Bette led LWVF during a battle over segregation in Fresno Unified, as well as a tussle involving the Brown Act. Bette's first job for the League was as an observer at the Board of Education meetings of Fresno Unified. She then became the chair of the Education Committee. While Bette served as Vice-President she also served on the State Board for nine years. During her LWVF presidency she continued to serve as president of the nominating committee for the State Board. She was proud of the fact that the nominating committee met in Fresno for the first time.

During her husband Bill's retirement from dentistry , they worked together at Stone Soup to provide free dental care to hundreds of children and families.

**BERNADETTE SIEGEL**

**Bernadette Siegel**, a member for more than 20 years, died January 8 at the age of 97. She was most proud of marching with Martin Luther King in 1963 and of starting a Unitarian fellowship in Kentucky. Bernadette was devoted to many causes, including animal rights and social justice. A registered nurse for forty years, she was married to her husband, Arthur, for fifty-seven years and raised three civic-minded children. Bernadette was admired for her wit, kindness, and joie de vivre.

**GEORGE WHITMORE**

**George Whitmore** of Fresno still had more mountains to climb at age 89, his family said, but Covid-19 changed that. George had been a league member since 2008. The respected conservationist was remembered for his famous first ascent of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in 1958. He died on New Year's Day at a Fresno rehabilitation facility from complications of Covid. The day before he was diagnosed, he walked several blocks to check on a cat at one of his rental properties in the Fresno High area. He had remained active, doing repairs on the properties himself, until a few weeks ago.

# THE VACCINE CHALLENGE

by Francine M. Farber

Fresno County government gets a bad rap for a lot of things, but the County's Health Department deserves kudos for its vaccination program. Being over 75, we easily made an appointment on-line for the Fairgrounds. We checked with friends who told us to enter at the gate on Kings Canyon and Chance. We had been instructed to get there a half hour before our appointment. We parked near the Agriculture Building, checked in to verify our appointment, and were directed to get in line. It looked long but it moved briskly. A flurry of excitement occurred when a woman fell over a curb while leaving the restroom attached to the building. My husband and others rushed to pick her up and a health worker brought her a wheelchair; she was determined to complete her appointment. Good for her!

Within 25 minutes we were inside the Agriculture Building; we were led to a desk where workers on laptops were making out ID cards. We walked a few feet to a line of a couple of people and were soon motioned toward one of the private cubicles where a nurse asked us about allergies and whether we took blood thinners. I answered yes to the first question and my husband to the second. She gave us each a shot of the Pfizer vaccine, which felt just like every other shot we have gotten in our lives.



After the shot we walked about 200 feet to the next building where chairs were set up so you could wait 15 minutes to see whether you had a reaction. If you took a blood thinner you had to wait for 30 minutes, which we did. Before we left we were given information about setting up an appointment for the second shot in three weeks.

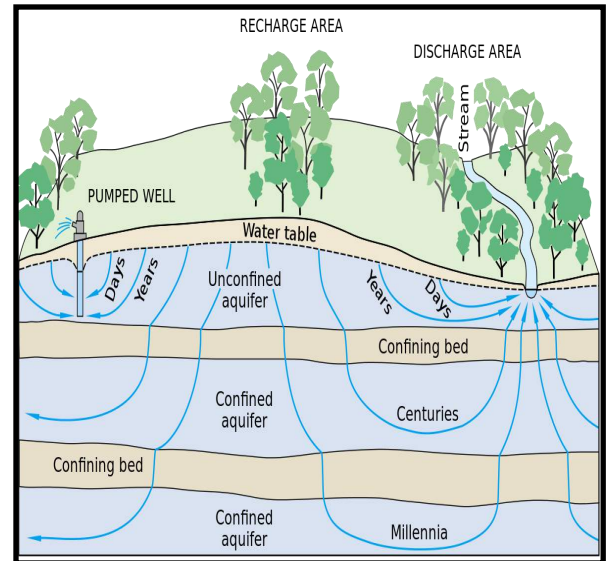
After that we walked to a desk and checked out. Total time: one hour and 10 minutes. It would have been under an hour if it were not for that blood thinner requirement. A day or two later we received a confirmation of our vaccination on-line and follow-up information. We will go back in three weeks for the second shot.

Congratulations and thanks to the Fresno County Health Department. They were efficient, well organized, and had many workers walking around to assist the public and answer any questions. We want everyone to know that the experience was positive. It is only if the vast majority of us get the two shots that we can resume normal activity. So come on, League members, rise to the challenge and urge family and friends to do the same.

[fmfarber@hotmail.com](mailto:fmfarber@hotmail.com)

## Water News

(continued from page 6)



Together with water conservation, recharging groundwater aquifers is essential for achieving groundwater sustainability. In wet years Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge can deliver multiple benefits for communities, agriculture, and the environment, especially in the Central Valley. This includes flood risk reduction, ecosystem enhancement, climate change adaptation, and working landscape preservation.

Aquifer Recharge projects in some areas have used multiple means to recharge aquifers, including deep injection methods and the use of urban stormwater and treated wastewater to recharge aquifers.

Groundwater can migrate underground, even between subbasins, in ways we do not understand well. It can be pumped out of the ground and moved to other locations through California's extensive system of canals. Also, people with rights to both surface and groundwater in one basin can forgo surface water so that it can be moved to another basin while drawing down their own groundwater, impacting other users in their basin. For all these reasons, groundwater management in California will ultimately involve regional as well as local management strategies in order to ensure statewide sustainability.

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***Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy***

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!**

*Men and Women age 16 and above Making Democracy Work*

**MISSION:** The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of interested individuals and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

**DIVERSITY POLICY:** There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

**What do you get when you join the League?** All for one fee, you become a member of the Fresno, California and National Leagues and receive their newsletters. You may participate in League studies of issues; receive leadership training; hone your public speaking skills; become knowledgeable about local and state issues; learn more about government, natural resources and social policies as your time and interests dictate. You will also meet some interesting and friendly women and men who represent diverse backgrounds but find common ground in keeping abreast of current issues.

**Yearly Dues Individual - \$70 ~ Family - \$100 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - Subsidized**

**Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below), to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710.**

.....  
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