Wednesday, January 11, 2017

The Future of Water in Monterey County

Water is still the dominant theme these days in Monterey County. From issues about its availability for development, to the threat to aquifers from oil extraction wastewater disposal, to the ongoing drought, to continual pressure to conserve, to the effects of climate change, to new State law requiring management of groundwater, to seawater intrusion of our aquifers, to our water supply dilemma, to agriculture and urban interests and conflicts, and beyond.

What is the near and long term future of water? Are all issues interrelated? If so how can this wide range of concerns and challenges be understood?

At our January luncheon, Gary Petersen, City of Salinas Public Works Director, and George Riley, LWVMC Natural Resources Committee Chair, will take a stab at explaining the big picture, concentrating on local implications, while leaving time to answer your most important questions.

In addition to his Public Works position, Mr. Petersen is a key organizer of the Sustainable Groundwater Collaboration Group. The group was formed in response to a new State law requiring management of groundwater. He is also a member of the East Salinas Building Healthy Communities Collaborative, and has worked for City, County and the Federal Government in various capacities.

George Riley is a Public Water Now activist, long time participant in local water dynamics, and student of various public agency efforts to settle on a workable plan for a new water supply.

George Riley, georgetriley@gmail.com
President’s Message January 2017

2017 promises to be an eventful year at all levels of government. At the federal level, many of the programs and institutions that the League supports will be under attack. Issues to follow include a woman’s right to choose, health care, safety nets, environmental protection and climate change, just to name a few!

We will need to support State efforts to protect all of our citizens and the environment. Events that are unfolding are way beyond anything I learned as a political science major! It will be a steep learning curve for all of us.

Fortunately, at the local level we may have a less arduous year with two new Supervisors being sworn in this January. And, Monterey Downs will not be around to require our attention.

While there are not many large projects on the immediate horizon, there are some left-over issues to address. The land use decision-making process leading up to approval of the 130 unit Rancho Canada Village project left the 2010 General Plan in shambles. While general plans are supposed to be the constitution of land use planning, County Planning Staff recommended approval with the Board’s blessing of a project clearly in violation of six General Plan requirements. We will need to focus on shoring-up the planning process.

Other issues will be the implementation of both Measure Z and Measure X. The League has been invited to participate on the oversight committee for implementation of the road projects and improvements to be funded by the new sales tax.

Finally, of course, there will be ongoing participation in water issues which never seem to go away!

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Our local study on special events impacts should get into full swing in 2017 (details below).

The Board hearing on draft interim guidelines proposed by the Resource Management Agency presaged controversies to come. The hospitality sector strongly opposed any new regulations or “interpretations” of existing requirements, and the Board directed staff to maintain the status quo.

I hope to see you at the Program Planning meeting on January 18 where we can talk about these and other issues.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@MontereyBay.com

Special Events Impacts Committee Meeting

At the LWVMC annual meeting, it was decided to form a study committee on Special Event Impacts, an issue of special interest.

Special Events were tentatively defined as large week-end or week-long annual events, mainly soliciting attendance of non-residents. Examples are car week, AT&T Golf, Rodeo, Laguna Seca races, marathons. Many events are substantially smaller with much lower attendance. Some will be facility specific. Others will schedule events in multiple jurisdictions. Some will charge admission. Others will not. Some make donations to charity. Others do not.

The Monterey Peninsula and Salinas schedule many high profile events throughout the year that attract tourists and support the hospitality industry. Various studies identify the economic impacts that encourage continuation of these events. After some discussion, it was pointed that many other impacts are not considered in such event oriented economic studies.

LWVMC formed a committee to consider what impacts other than economic that might be identified
Since Election Day, Leagues at all levels have seen an uptick in potential volunteers and donors interested in getting involved in the League’s work.

We at LWVUS have fielded numerous inquiries, including from the New York Times, Washington Post, and US News and World Report, about what will happen next for voters’ rights. The following are suggestions for getting involved.

10 Ways You Can Help Defend Our Democracy

1. Sign the League of Women Voter’s Petition
   “I stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible. I will work with the League to stop voter suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote.”

2. Become an e-Activist
   Receive updates from the League and hold your elected officials accountable by taking action on the League’s key voting rights and other priorities.

3. Volunteer Your Time
   We are working to make a difference and actively engaging people in more than 700 communities. Sign up to volunteer!

4. Donate to our Defend Democracy Fund
   Your support makes it possible for LWV to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

5. Spread the Word
   Stay engaged every day, and leverage your social media followers to get involved too! Follow the League on Twitter and Facebook to find out how to make an impact.

6. Attend a Community Meeting
   Learn about local issues and hear from elected officials. You can connect and organize with people already active in your community. Check your local government’s website or contact your local League.

7. Register to Vote, and help others Register
   Make sure your family and neighbors are up to date on their registration. The League works year-round at schools and community events to prepare eligible voters. Check out VOTE411.org for more information.

8. Contact your Representatives
   Elected officials work for the people and need to hear from concerned citizens like you.

9. Run for Office
   You can directly contribute to the direction of local politics in your own back yard. From school board to the state house, there are many opportunities to run for office and make a difference.

10. Write a Letter to the Editor
    Newspapers print concerns from readers and love to hear about local concerns. Tailor the issue for your community and support local newspapers when possible.

Sarah Courtney, Senior Director, Communications & Digital Strategy, LWVUS, SCourtney@LWV.org
Mayoral/City Council Candidate Forums
Both the Pacific Grove and the Seaside mayoral and city council candidate forums held in September and October respectively. Both were very well attended. I deeply appreciate the fact that the League makes my job so easy. Whenever I put out an e-mail requesting volunteers to help at a forum, people begin responding to me right away. Those volunteering this fall included Luana Conley, Diane Cotton, Carole Erickson, Bob Evans, Alice Ann Glenn, Jane Haines, Cynthia Hall, Bev Kreps, Judi Lehman, Marilyn Maxner, Tama Olver, and Philomene Smith.

Marilyn Maxner and I have a system down for keeping track of which candidate is to begin the next round of questioning and I wish to report that Bob Evans did a magnificent job of moderating the Seaside candidate forum, perched on a sawhorse where the panel could see him. You might say that he rose to the occasion—and on very short notice!

Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Monterey Peninsula, jtumer215@comcast.net

School District Board
Thanks to MaryEllen Dick for moderating the forum for the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District Board. A League-style forum was a new experience for the candidates. MaryEllen gently guided them through the process.

State Proposition Pros & Cons
Marilyn Maxner and Dennis Mar spent three weeks of intensive study to prepare to present “Pros & Cons” for the California state propositions. Once equipped with all this background information, they made presentations to the AAUW, the Junior League, one religious group, three retirement communities, and the LWVMC’s October Lunch & Learn meeting. More presentations were possible but Marilyn and Dennis became fatigued.

Easy Voter Guide
The LWVC Education Fund collaborates on producing the Easy Voter Guide (EVG). The EVG provides voters with nonpartisan information about the California propositions. Thanks to League members for distributing copies of the EVG to voters: Ann Bell, Beth Benoit, Carole Erickson, Alice Ann Glenn, Joanne Haag, Beverly Kreps, Judi Lehman, Joy Osborne, Sylvia Shih, Jean Stallings, and Jeanne Turner.

Dennis Mar,
Voter Service Salinas Valley,
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com
Bev Kreps joined LWVMC about a decade ago, but Social Policy Director is the first Board position she’s held. “I was still teaching when I first joined the League,” she says. “It seemed a good thing to support and it dealt with lots of important issues, but I wasn’t active in the beginning.”

Now in retirement, she’s enjoying being on the Board and “working on all these social issues as they come up. Social policy is a big, big area.”

Bev spent her career teaching English. “I taught at a middle school in Oakland for a while. Then I had my kids and later I taught at Oakland Tech.” After moving to the Monterey Peninsula area, she taught English at Monterey High and Seaside High. “Teaching English is hard work. I had to proofread all the students’ newspapers” in addition to teaching classes, she explains.

In recent years, she’s been concerned about the changing face of American education. “So many of the classes I thought were important—music and art, for instance—all were cut.”

Born in England to a British mother and a US Air Force father—“the kind of thing you see in old Cary Grant movies,” she says—Bev moved to the US as a toddler. Her family first lived in Nebraska, but the weather extremes there were hard on her mother. “So we moved to Eureka, in northern California,” she says. “My parents visited another couple there and decided to stay. There was a really large group of war brides there—all British, Scottish, Irish women married to American veterans.” Bev lived there until she’d completed her undergraduate degree at Humboldt State University.

Since retiring eight years ago, Bev has continued to lead a full life. Some of her activities are physical—classes in Zumba dancing, tai chi, women’s weight lifting and body sculpting. “Halfway through any exercise time, I think, ‘I’m tired, I want to go home,’” she says, “but I stick it out.”

She also enjoys Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes at CSUMB. “One really good class I’ve taken several times is about women in film or the arts—producers, directors, etc., not the actors. It celebrates women you might not even know about,” Bev says. “And I went to a series by Fred Keeley, who used to be our State Representative. He talked about the various propositions, the people behind them. He had so many tales to tell—that made it much more interesting.”

Bev’s husband, Ed, a retired elementary school music teacher, believes in continuing education, too. “He’s taking a lot of art classes,” Bev reports. “He has a BA and an MA and now he’s getting a two-year degree in art at MPC.”

Bev and Ed have two grown children, a son who works for a tech company in Monterey and a daughter in Los Gatos who has two children and has worked as a tech recruiter.

In the near future, Bev says she’s concentrating on “how I can feel positive and do positive things in the coming four years. I don’t want to get involved in all this negative stuff.” In particular, she wants to concentrate on climate issues, explaining, “We have a shorter timeline there. With the environment, there’s no going back.”

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com
The League is a truly grassroots organization that sets its agenda through the Program Planning process. As members, this is our chance to help choose what we want California’s and the League’s future to be.

Join us at noon on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017** at Mariposa Hall, when we’ll be discussing League policy and positions at the state level.

- **Where should the League focus its energy over the next two years?**

- **What are the statewide issues of concern to us here in Monterey County?**

- **Where is there a need for legislative activity and other advocacy, both in Sacramento and in our city or county?**

Advocacy is a key League activity year-round. For example, we supported or opposed 11 of the 17 statewide ballot measures in November, but in addition, 19 bills we supported—from climate change to voting rights—were signed into law, this year alone.

- **What will we do to participate in the LWVUS Campaign to Make Democracy Work?**

- **Should we focus on community education?**

- **Was there an issue on the ballot this year on which you wished the League had been able to take a stand—so that we should have a new or updated study?**

This is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Join us!

**Janet Brennan, JanetB@MontereyBay.com**

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**Continue reading at the top of page 7...**


Welcome to Our Newest Members

Dr. Sandra Berman
2030 Cross Street, Seaside CA 93955
333-6916, sandibeach1@outlook.com
($65 membership & $20 donation)

Mary Jeanne Vincent
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Address Change

Amy White
PO Box 3028, Gonzales, CA 93926

New Phone Numbers

Bev Kreps 224-3192
Carol Kaplan 394-5120

New e-Mail Address

Carolyn Shimek cishimek2906@gmail.com

Thank You to Our Generous Year-End Donors

Konny Murray $100
($65 membership & $35 donation)

Ann Wilson $100
($65 membership & $35 donation)

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

Membership Update

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LWVMC Voter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com
LWVMC 2017 Calendar

**JANUARY**

- **LWVMC Board Meeting**
  - **Monday, 9 January, 5:00 pm**
  - Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
  - [JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)

- **Natural Resources Committee Meeting**
  - **Thursday, 12 January, 12 noon**
  - Mariposa Hall, [GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)

- **Lunch & Learn with the League**
  - **Wednesday, 11 January, 12 noon**
  - "The Future of Water in Monterey County"
  - [JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)

- **LWVMC Program Planning Meeting**
  - **Wednesday, 18 January, 12 noon**
  - Mariposa Hall, [GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)

- **Special Events Impact Committee Meeting**
  - **Thursday, 26 January, 12 noon**
  - Mariposa Hall, [GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com) (details on page 3)

**FEBRUARY**

- **LWVMC Board Meeting**
  - **Monday, 13 February, 5:00 pm**
  - Mariposa Hall, [Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)

- **Lunch & Learn with the League**
  - **Wednesday, 8 February, 12 noon**
  - "The End of Labor," [Dr. Rodrigo Nieto-Gomez](mailto:Dr.RodrigoNieto-Gomez@gmail.com), Research Professor, Naval Postgraduate School
  - [James Emery, emeryjc@aol.com](mailto:emeryjc@aol.com)

- **Natural Resources Committee Meeting**
  - **Thursday, 9 February, 12 noon**
  - Mariposa Hall
  - [George Riley](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)

- **Natural Resources Committee Meeting**
  - **Thursday, 12 February, 12 noon**
  - Mariposa Hall
  - [George Riley](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)