

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / September 2022, Volume 95, Number 1

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 Local Water Update: Expanded Supply, CalAm Buyout, Litigation, Community Needs and Demands ... and More

ave Stoldt, General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) will present a status report on the steps to acquire the California American Water supply system as approved by voters in 2018 through Measure J. He will also provide an update on expanded water supply, and various litigations and plans for the immediate future. There will be time for questions.



Mr. Stoldt joined the MPWMD in 2011. He has 35 years of experience in the public infrastructure sector, including investment banking and consulting to public agencies. He has also served as chief executive and chief financial officer for early-stage start-up companies where his roles included cross-functional experience in strategic planning, finance, marketing, logistics, and management.

Before joining the District - (way, waaaay back....), he consulted on numerous local projects: the **California Public Utilities Commission Regional Desalination Project** proceedings (2007-8), as well as investigations of the **Carmel River**

Dam (1997), Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project, and Monterey Regional Waste Management District; and an analysis for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. Stoldt was Lead Investment Banker for the public-private Pebble Beach Water Reclamation Project (1992).

(continued on page 2)

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **September LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Q&A.

11:45 am **Zoom Check-In** / 12 noon **Meeting Begins**.

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting from lwvmryco@gmail.com on the Monday before the meeting (e.g., on Monday, September 12th for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. You can also join by phone: numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?

Contact Tama Olver LWVMryCo@gmail.com

Stoldt's private sector experience includes serving as an Investment Banker for a leading Wall Street firm for 41 public agency projects totaling over \$3 billion; working for a California investorowned utility performing demand forecasts and supply contract negotiation; and serving as CEO, President, CFO, and Director/Board Member for various start-up companies.

Mr. Stoldt has a BS in Civil Engineering, Environmental and Hydrosystems, University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign; Master of Science in Energy and Resources, University of California, Berkeley; and an MBA and Certificate in Public Management, Stanford University.

> George Riley Submit guestions in advance to **Tama Olver** LWVMryCo@gmail.com

→ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2022

Supreme Court's Attack on

Bans Off Our Bodies!

hope that your summer was laid back or action-packed according to your personal wishes. In American domestic politics it was certainly an eventful season that included dramatic hearings by the **Select Committee to Investigate** January 6 and the Supreme Court's overturning

of Roe Wade. While Congress has recently passed major legislation, this was not accomplished bipartisan with the collaboration we might have seen a few decades ago. As from we move

the primaries into the fall election season, "civil discourse" continues to be highly uncivil. It's a lot to take in and it can be overwhelming!

This week I had to catch my breath, casting about for encouragement and even consolation. I found that consolation not in the wisdom of the Founding Fathers, great Civil Rights leaders, ancient philosophers or religious texts. Rather I heard the voice children's television host Fred Rogers, who reminded us that in times of trouble we can always, "Look for the helpers." I also hear lyricist Oscar Hammerstein suggesting that I

remember my favorite things. Finally, I recalled a friend's wonderful motto, "How can I be a part of the solution?"

Here in Monterey County, over 100 of our fellow citizens are running for elective office because they

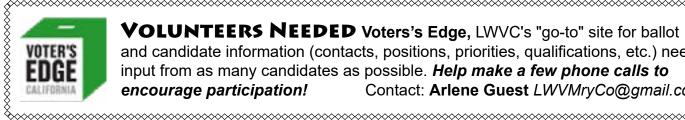
believe they have the ideas and energy to make our community better. Our Monterey County **Elections Department** working to ensure the that elections meet high standards

of accountability and transparency and to encourage voter registration so that all citizens have a voice. LWVMC-your League—is in full action mode, working hard to inform and empower voters.



What a privilege to have a front-row seat as fellow League members help make democracy work! The League is certainly one of my favorite things and

I'm grateful that it gives us all a way to be a part of the solution. **Marianne Gawain**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Voters's Edge, LWVC's "go-to" site for ballot and candidate information (contacts, positions, priorities, qualifications, etc.) needs input from as many candidates as possible. Help make a few phone calls to encourage participation! Contact: Arlene Guest LWVMryCo@gmail.com

LWVMC NEW MEMBER PROFILE: CAROLYN SWANSON

she became Ithough member of LWVMC only last February, **Carolyn Swanson** volunteered to serve as one of our four delegates to the *League of Women* Voters National Convention this summer. "All of us attended virtually." she says. "For me, that was a good choice, because I'm very COVIDcautious."

Carolyn joined the League because she admired its political partisanship. "I think that can be unifying in a very divided time," she explains.

After attending California public schools, Carolyn went on to graduate from Washington State University. "That's where I met my husband, Brandon," she relates. The Swansons moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 2004, after graduating from college.

In 2007, Carolyn used the skills she'd learned in college to start her own business, Passion Purveyors LLC, a sustainable food service MOMSE distribution company. It won the KSBW/Union Bank Salute to Small Business Award for the DEMAND Best Woman-Owned Business in 2010.

The Swansons have one child, their 10-yearold daughter, **Dorothy**, whom Carolyn calls her



"magic baby" because she's been touched by "the magic of Down syndrome." Shortly after Dorothy was born, Carolyn and another mother of a child with Down syndrome started Magic Babies Monterey, a parent-toparent support group. Since Down syndrome



includes immune system problems, Carolyn says that at the start of the COVID pandemic, "our entire family hunkered down. I sold my business and moved from business entrepreneur mode to professional mom mode. When you have a child at high risk, that has to come first."

Carolyn's very aware that situation speaks to one of the broader issues of our current society, which she describes as "the shortage of safe child care, affordable health care and workers.

plus having to become the lead parent for our kids. We're mostly women of a certain age—not retired, in our working years, struggling to find safe health and child care."

Luckily, many of Carolyn's other activities have been able to continue virtually

during the pandemic. In 2020, she was elected to the Pacific Grove Unified School District Board of Education, where she serves as one of its five

members. In addition, she's a member of the **Democratic** Women of Monterey County.

Environment FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA California,

Forest Grove PTA, Moms Demand Action for Gun Violence in America,



and the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.

About five years ago, her mother moved in with them, providing

much-needed help. "Having a multi-generational household is wonderful," Carolyn says.

Another of Carolyn's passions, which fits well with our League's goals, is getting more people to vote. (continued on page 4)

"I'm hoping that, in the coming 12 months, we also like to see our membership become more

important. I'll aim at some pockets in Pacific Grove that don't ordinarily vote," she says.

Like many of our members, Carolyn Swanson respects the work that LWVMC is accomplishing and she'd

can engage more voters. Local advocacy is most diverse—in age, disability, ethnicity and living

regions in the county. "COVID might have brought about a different way of thinking about attendance," she says. She believes that having more virtual meetings might help with these goals.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

🗙 🗙 VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE IN ACTION 🖈 🖈

Voter Services for Youth

Registrar of Voters Gina Martinez is counting on the LWV to help out with youth-led High School Voter Education Weeks, September 19-30. She would also like us to participate in voting and registration education at Juvenile Hall.

Youth Voter Focus at LWVUS Convention

At the June **Convention** (report on page 7) many strategies for engaging youth were presented. LWVMC Delegate Sharon Miller heard a number of ideas to energize the youth vote, but many needed more people or money than we have now.



But with more help on Voter Service, it might be possible to implement stronger strategies!

The main message is: give young people the knowledge and tools to talk with their peers about the importance of voting. The League toolbox has interactive lessons, ideas for videos, social media posts, PSAs, postcards, candidate forums, school mock elections, how to work with youth organizations, and more (www. energizingyoungvoters.com/educators-andcommunity-groups, www.anchoragevouthvote. org/youth-voter-toolkit, www.thecivicscenter. org/programs, www.thecivicscenter.org/graphicresources, my.lwv.org/ohio/kent/voter-girl)

Help us develop life-long voters! Drop in to a meeting, send suggestions, sign up for activities! Sharon Miller and Carol Kaplan

Candidate Forums 2022

Tuesday, September 20th live at Community Center 515 Junipero Avenue, Pacific Grove 5:30pm - audience submits questions 6 to 6:40pm - Mayors Forum

6:45 to 7:45pm - Councilmembers Forum

Thursday, September 29th

live at Grange Hall, 400 Rose Avenue, Aromas 5:30pm - audience submits written questions 6pm - Monterey County Sheriffs Forum 6:45pm - District 2 Supervisors Forum



Tuesday, October 4th Zoom Online 7 to 8pm **Monterey County Sheriffs Forum**

Sunday, October 2nd live at Grange Hall. 400 Rose Avenue, Aromas 3pm - Ballot Issues Pros & Cons



VIDEO REPLAY of forums will be available on our League website after all forums; for access to the Sheriff's online forum, register for the event from the LWVMC website: http://www.LWVmryco.org.

Jeanne Turner, MaryEllen Dick, Dennis Mar ······

Voter Service Committee Meeting Monday, September 12, 12:30pm via Zoom

Contact: Sharon Miller or Pamela Stewart



WHERE THE ACTION IS



"End Pay-to-Play!"

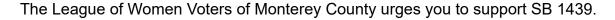
We hope our League's letter to Senator Laird played a part in the successful passing of Senate Bill 1439 (Glazer) closing a pay-to-play loophole which allowed local elected officials to accept huge campaign contributions from donors seeking permits, licenses, or other entitlements.



Date: May 25, 2022

To: Senator John Laird, District 17 Senator.Laird@senate.ca.gov

Dear Senator Laird:



Most state and local officials are already prohibited from accepting large contributions from donors who are seeking permits, licenses, or entitlements before them. Yet local elected officials, like city council members and county supervisors who routinely approve permits and contracts for new developments, variances for zoning, and other projects, can accept huge sums of money from those same donors. SB 1439 ends this pay-to-play scheme by:

Prohibiting local elected officials from accepting more than \$250 from anyone who is in the process of applying for a permit, license, no-bid contract, or entitlement.

Extending this prohibition on contributions to 12 months after a final decision on the matter is reached.

Extending this prohibition on contributions to include an interested party's spouse if the contributions come from a shared bank account.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours, Marianne Gawain, President

("Where the Action Is" continues on page 6)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK, SEND US YOUR POSTS

Send League related news items, thoughts, ideas, news, and reviews to: *ArleneGuest@gmail.com*

Jump from *LWVMryCo.org* to our page with one click on the Facebook logo.

Where the Action Is (continued)

As noted in the May Voter, our second letter to the Agricultural Commissioner went twice without response. We persist in our efforts to request that Notices of Intent of Planned Use of Pesticides be issued in a timely manner, with an appeal to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.



Date: July 15, 2022

To: ProjectNotify@cdpr.ca.gov

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Re: Statewide Pesticide Notification System



As an organization concerned about the threats to public health from highly hazardous pesticide use in the Monterey Bay region, we are writing to provide public comment on the proposed statewide pesticide notification system.

Advocates, farmworkers and environmental justice communities in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties have been calling for a pesticide notification system for years. Communities have the right to be notified in advance if pesticides will be applied. We want to ensure that the pesticide notification system that DPR creates is robust, inclusive and implemented as soon as possible.

We strongly encourage DPR to adopt the following when designing the system:

- 1. Create a fully transparent web-based system available to all without requiring sign-ups, sharing our information or where we live. A California map with zoom-in capability would be most transparent and useful.
- 2. The **specific location of the pesticide applications** should be fully transparent.
- 3. The **deadline of 2024 is too long** and unacceptable. DPR should phase-in parts of the system rather than waiting years and begin immediately with posting Notices of Intent that farmers already file with DPR when planning to apply restricted pesticides.
- 4. **Notify about other harmful pesticides**, beyond restricted ones, including Prop 65, BeeWhere, and others identified by scientists.
- 5. **Post notification information in multiple languages**, including but not limited to Spanish, Mixteco, Zapoteco and Triqui.
- 6. Create an **option for opt-in alerts** through email or text.
- 7. Include maps, graphics and links to safety data.
- 8. Include at least 72-hour advanced notice.
- 9. Establish a **community-led working group** that would develop the pesticide notification system alongside DPR.

We urge DPR to seriously consider these points. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely,

Marianne Gawain, President

LWVUS 55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

by Our LWVMC Delegates

he League National Convention 2022—a hybrid event with participants both online and in Denver, Colorado—was an animated mix of inspiration, organizational business, and decisions concerning the League's policy priorities.

The reversal of Roe v Wade by the Supreme Court's decision on Dobbs v Jackson galvanized the convention. That day's agenda was modified to permit immediate passage of a resolution concerning bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice. Delegates in Denver then marched to the Colorado Capitol in protest.

Regarding League governance, the Convention passed a **restructuring plan** aimed at unifying membership structure, relieving local leagues of administrative burdens with respect to dues and membership records, while making membership at National, State and Local levels automatic, no matter which level members join first. Details will be worked out over the next two years.

Personal Highlights from LWVMC Delegates

Marianne Gawain

"Convention highlights included a fascinating presentation on the history of the electoral college and reform efforts; the passing of a motion to elevate the 'direct election of the President by popular vote' as a prominent, listed component of 'Making

Democracy Work,' and discussions on the wideranging work of the LWVUS Climate Interest Group."

Amanda Whitmire

"Being relatively new to the League, attending Convention was an amazing crash course in getting to know its work. I had assumed that the LWVUS was primarily focused on

issues directly related to voting (abolishing the Electoral College, endorsing a national popular vote, redistricting, getting out the "youth vote," etc.). I was delighted to find that there is also focus on equity, health care, immigration reform, cybersecurity and privacy, and more, with a broad view of policies and actions necessary to support a functioning and healthy democracy. As a newcomer, this was an exciting discovery! I had to make hard decisions between competing sessions—a solid indicator of a strong convention program.

Though I attended sessions on building civic capacity in a time of disinformation and disruption, national popular vote, criminal justice reform, and climate change, my favorite session was "Working on Homelessness in your Community."

The California League established a Homelessness Task Force in 2019, but first adopted a



position on Housing and Homelessness back in 1970! It expressed "support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians."

I highly recommend their **Homelessness Action Policy Toolkit** (https://my.lwv.org/california/homelessness/homelessness-action-policy-local-league-toolkit).

I've been passionate about the issue since working with a local school board, and finding that in my area, over 20% of our students are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act (exacerbated by the pandemic). If there had been any doubt in my mind about the contemporary relevance of this 100+ year-old organization, the realization that they work on and advocate for important issues that I care about deeply eliminated it!"

Carolyn Swanson

"My favorite session was Marketing to Increase Voter Turnout: Democracy Starts at Home Campaign."

Also known as behavior change marketing, social marketing (not social media) is aimed to improve personal welfare and social justice

using a creative, specific, strategic approach to enhance motivators and removes barriers. It isn't aimed at selling a product (e.g., toothpaste), but at selling a behavior (e.g., brushing your teeth). In an example of a successful campaign to increase voting in a low voter turnout area

"Using Social



of South St. Petersburg Florida, Dr. Linsey Grove showed how her team reviewed data

and developed a plan, including sending out ballots for children to fill-in alongside adults, and moving the League office to the community of focus (www.drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UzPkKzjraKCbYuMAGzSoF9Yg3MWr2pup?usp=sharing).

I believe we can implement something similar in Monterey County."

(Delegate and Voter Service Committee Member Sharon Miller's Personal Convention Highlights can be seen on page 4)

What's WORTH SEEING at LWVMRYCO.ORG

General Meeting videos: https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos

"Climate Change: Advocating for Action" (May 10, 2022)

The first step in a collective response to a major threat is communication: hear **Sarah-Mae Nelson**, innovator and **specialist in education**, **science** and **climate change communication** discuss updated research and thinking on how to be a strong effective voice. "We need to be talking about

climate change as easily and often as we talk about any other challenge we face."



If you missed the *Primary Candidates Forums*, check them out online before attending the final rounds this month: *"Supervisor District 2"* (May 7, 2022), *"State Assembly District 30"* (May 4, 2022), and *"Monterey County Sheriff"* (April 30, 2022)

"Managing Our Trash: Trash to Treasure" (March 9, 2022)
If you're still curious about composting, rabid about recycling, troubled

about toxics, and want to know more about the sustainability of Monterey County's recycling and landfill, listen to "trash talk" from local recycling

experts!



"Changing Values in Community Safety" (November 10, 2021)
The League of Women Voters of Monterey County voted to make
Criminal Justice at the Local Level a 2021-2022 issue for emphasis.
Rebroadcast of a stellar panel of leaders in Monterey County law
enforcement discuss the issues pertinent to upcoming elections.

work in Voter Registration education and train young people to do so too.

A little of your time can make a big difference to ensure that every voter and every vote counts!

Contact: Carol Kaplan



Call for Voter Service Assistance & Volunteers
Teacher & Parent Voter Education: Help identify
librarians, administrators, student leaders, &
teachers to bring civics education into schools.
Contact: Carol Kaplan or Linda Deutsch



Work at the Polls "Team Up For Democracy"

Volunteers needed (training provided), to work a four-hour shift at the *Marina Community Center* or *Seaside Buddhist Temple* polling places. Contact: *Dennis Mar* or *Pamela Stewart*

SALINAS VALLEY VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR NEEDED!



Our League is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We need stronger outreach to Salinas Valley voters to engage individuals, communities, and policy makers in fostering justice and democracy.

A part-time but crucial job:

organize candidate/Pro & Con forums, encourage people to register, participate in elections, and vote! Mentoring provided.

Contact: Marianne Gawain or Dennis Mar LWVMryCo@gmail.com



LWVMC
Members
Handbook
2022-2023
now available
at "Members
Only" section of
lwvmryco.org

It includes: "Who We Are", "What We Stand For," and "What Governs Us". You can download, print out, or view all 64-pages online.

This edition was produced by the Handbook Committee: Marilyn Maxner, Dennis Mar and Beverly Bean.

For a printed version mailed via USPS contact: Beverly Bean LWVMryCo@gmail.com

Fun Facts from Local League History

ut of curiosity I looked for past issues of *The Voter* to see what news my predecessors reported. We are one of the oldest LWV chapters in California, being founded in 1926 in Pacific Grove, but the earliest versions I could find of "newsletters" were single typed sheets, starting in 1934. We were then the *Monterey Peninsula League of Women Voters*.

Committee, Board, and "Study Class" meetings were held in individual members'

homes. At the monthly luncheon held in *Holman's Department Store Solarium* (30¢ for members, 40¢ for non), a report on the State League's stand on November ballot measures was to be reported, so members were asked to "...please bring their sample ballots or be prepared to take notes."

There were reminders about the State Convention (*Women's City Club, Oakland*), and about annual Membership dues (\$1.50). Readers were urged to join as "*Well informed and thoughtful voters are needed as never before at this time of stress and change.*" Our League focussed on Child and Economic Welfare, Education, the Legal Status of Women, and other issues to help America cope with the Great Depression.

(to be continued in the next Voter) Regina Doyle



Join the League of Women Voters of **Monterey County**



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Wanted!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member of the League. Use the form below or contact: LWVMC Membership Director Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995 Monterey, CA 93942 Checks payable to LWVMC or

online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

	\$250+ Carrie Chapman Ca \$200 Sojourner Truth \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stan \$100 Susan B. Anthony \$ 95 Household (2 person \$ 65 Single membership (free) Student (16-24 years a diploma or degree p	ton as, 1 address) a, enrolled in
Name(s)		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	e-mail	
Please do NOT publish my address, phone number or email in The Voter newsletter		

&Florence Curlee Scholarships≪ are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact: Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo 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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

&Welcome New Members!≪

Larry Dick

Patricia Fletcher

Evelyn Makris

Debby Majors-Degnan

Jennifer McNary

&Change of eMail / Phone<a>๑

Lynn Kennedy **Sharon Miller Konny Murray**

Thank You to Our **&**Generous Donors≪

Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund **Diane Cotton / Bill Leone \$65** Margaret Goodman \$35 Anne Herendeen \$35 Kay Cline / Bill Weigle \$25

LWVC Education Fund Fran Gaver \$150 Janet Brennan \$100 Joan Beller \$50 in Memory of Janice O'Brian **Tamara Harris** \$50 Margaret Goodman \$35

> LWVMC General Fund Konny Murray \$285 **Anton Prange \$235** Ann Clifton \$200 Marianne Gawain \$185

LWVMC General Fund Donors (continued)

Marjorie Kay \$185
Tama Olver \$185
Dennis & Susan Mar \$155
Karen Strasser Kauffman \$115
Amy Anderson \$100
Lyn & Alan Rosen \$50
Arlene Guest \$35
Lisa & Tom Hoivik \$105
Ann Smallwood \$85
Catherine Trifilo \$65
Elaine Gehrmann \$65
Linda & Howard Fosler \$50
Mary Adams \$35
Kathy Dale \$35

James Emery \$35
Myrleen Fisher \$35
Linda Gin \$35
Whitney Gravel \$35
Peggy Hansen \$35
Bonnie Hernandez \$35
Karen Kelly \$35
Betty Matterson \$35
Marilyn Maxner \$35
Mystere Sapia \$35
Jeanne Turner \$35
Sharon Miller & Harry McClane \$30
Amanda Whitmire \$30
Patricia Mahoney \$5

Send Updates to Janet Brennan LWVMryCo@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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Tama Olver

Whitney Gravel

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 LWV California

Nominating Committee

Elected

Arlene Guest

Nancy Baker Jacobs

Sylvia Shih Appointed

> Janet Brennan Howard Fosler

Voter's Edge/Facebook

Arlene Guest

Videographer Joe Asling

"The Voter" Biographer
Nancy Baker Jacobs

Website Coordinator
Debby Majors-Degnan

LWVMryCo The VOTER

Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec Send articles & updates to ReginaDoyle

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

Non-Profit Org. U.S.POSTAGE PAID Monterey, CA Permit No. 115

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





LWVMryCo Calendar 2022

≭SEPTEMBER≭

OCTOBER



Natural Resources Committee Meeting Thursday, 8th September, 12 noon contact: George Riley

Voter Service Committee Meeting Monday, 12th September, 12:30pm Members will be sent link/instructions contact: Sharon Miller / Pamela Stewart

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 14th September
"Update Measure J / Pure Water Monterey"
(details front page)

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 3rd October, 11:30am
Board Members to be sent link/instructions
contact: Marianne Gawain

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 12th October
"CA State Propositions Pros & Cons"
contact: Dennis Mar / Marilyn Maxner

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Thursday, 13th October, 12 noon contact: George Riley

NOVEMBER ELECTION FORUMS

PG Mayor / Councilmembers Tuesday, September 20th, 6pm live at PG Community Center

Monterey Co Sheriff / District 2 Supervisors Thursday, September 29th, 6pm live at Aromas Grange Hall Monterey County Sheriff Tuesday, October 4th, 7pm online Zoom

Ballot Issues Pros & Cons Sunday, October 2nd, 3pm live at Aromas Grange Hall

(See page 4 for Forum details)