



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Observer

May 2023

Edition 1

Observer Reports from Around the County.

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The LWVVC invites all members to participate in democracy by being an Observer at any government meeting in Ventura County or pertaining to issues affecting Ventura County. Please submit a brief report of your observations to lwvvc.info@gmail.com

Our League observes the VC Board of Supervisors' meetings on a regular basis. We have a few volunteers, but we need more. Please consider attending a meeting. You'll be pleased to learn what's going on in the county, and the supervisors will appreciate knowing that the League is interested. Contact [Carol Lindberg](#) for more information.

For a blue league t-shirt please contact [Karen Savitt](#).

For Observer Buttons, please contact [Karen Savitt](#) , [Matty Park](#) , [Carol Lindberg](#) or [Pat Butler](#).

OBSERVER REPORTS



LWV CALIFORNIA Water Group Meeting Notes

April 11, 2023, 8 - 9 am

Provided by Betsy Patterson

Legislation to watch:

AB1337 - Places limit on water diversion, even for well owners from before 1914.

SB3 - Expands water shut off protection, requiring water districts with 2000 or fewer clients to comply (effective date 8/2/2024).

Flood management - Northern California water issues are very different from So Cal's

1. Tulare Lake basin is at risk for flooding depending on snow melt rate.
2. Snow pack is being monitored by LIDAR* to anticipate melting rate.
3. Diversion flooding of agricultural areas being encouraged to increase groundwater.
4. Special project (ongoing since 1983) by single individual to increase the aquifer; his only access to water is with agricultural flooding, does not have access to diversion sources.
5. Klamath River has four dams that are going to be taken down, the first one this fall, then the others next year.

Water Contaminants

Question was asked if contaminants could be absorbed through the skin

Response: "Use of water produced from fracking can affect crops" (no study cited) and "we wear gloves in labs because contaminants can go through skin." It was noted that spinach is a crop that absorbs heavy metals and is used to reclaim soil (but the spinach with heavy metals is supposed to be burned, not eaten). Also, pumpkin and sunflowers can absorb contaminants. Other potential contaminants include uranium, arsenic, selenium.

Question: Do organic growers have to check what is in the water they use? Someone said they thought it was "voluntary."

Answer: It was suggested that a new study was needed to look at the uptake by plants of contaminants in water produced from fracking. There has been a study but "wasn't very good."



LWVC Convention

Caucus (open to everyone) and in-person workshop (limited to Water group members) and will discuss Bay-Delta issues; adding the Colorado River issues (So Cal members' interest)

PBS offers a rare opportunity in April to watch the movie *River's End* about California's (and our planet's) water dilemma in the face of climate change. The movie is available to view at your convenience by accessing <https://www.pbs.org/show/rivers-end/> OR <https://vids.kvie.org/video/rivers-end-californias-latest-water-war-9se7db/>.



Observer Report #1

Congressman Salud Carbajal, CD24
Ventura Town Hall
Wednesday, April 12th
San Buenaventura City Hall
Observer Reporting: Matty Park

Representative Carbajal introduced himself to his new constituents. He immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico at a young age with his parents, who were farm workers in the Bracero program. They initially worked in Arizona and then moved to Oxnard, where he grew up, did well in school, graduated from UCSB, and then spent 8 years in the Marines.

Representative Carbajal served as a Santa Barbara County Supervisor for 12 years before being elected to Congressional District 24 in 2016, after Representative Lois Capps retired. The district contains all of Santa Barbara County and parts of San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. Before redistricting in 2022 it had only a sliver of the City of Ventura, but now it contains all of Ventura and Ojai. A new district office is planned soon in Ventura, and he hopes it can be in City Hall.

Representative Carbajal spoke about his committee assignments and accomplishments, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Committees:

- Armed Services (as a Marine veteran)
- Transportation and Infrastructure (ranking member on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation subcommittee)
- Agriculture (son of farm workers who also values the needs of farmers)

Accomplishments:



In summary, Representative Carbajal has worked on, and voted for, many bills to support citizens and the economy during the pandemic, reduce inflation (has been going down for 9 months now), lower drug costs, incentivize science and manufacturing in America, improve shipping regulations to fight supply chain problems, improve maritime safety, create 12 million jobs with lowest unemployment since we first sent men to the moon, encourage red-flag laws in local communities, fund healthcare for veterans exposed to toxic substances, incentivize energy efficient homes, equalize firefighter benefits, support the needs of local military bases, businesses, and agriculture, and improve infrastructure.

During Q&A he said he supports a law to codify Roe v Wade, is in leadership of an immigration task force that is trying to develop an immigration bill that can pass the house and contains as much as possible of President Biden's agenda, is trying to decouple appropriations from the debt ceiling, and supports wind farms. He also said the FAA is looking at policy for drones.

For more information see Rep Carbajal's website at:
[U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal \(house.gov\)](https://www.house.gov/carbajal)



Observer Report #2

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Observer Reporting: Sharon Crane

The Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance (VC COC Alliance) presented their 2023 State of Homelessness in Ventura County. This document can be found on their website [HERE](#). It was very thorough and presented well. The areas covered were Point-in-Time Count Data, At-Risk Populations, VC CoC Homeless Service System, Housing Resources and Challenges and finally 2023 Draft recommendations.

The Point-in-Time was broken down into Who is Counted, a Map of the Count, Totals from 2018 to 2023 as well as broken down into various subcategories. It is a very readable and informative report. The number of homeless has increased 9.1% to 2,441 for 2023 count even though there has been a very positive increase in housing and services. The 211-call data is also presented.

The 2022 System Performance Data compared Housing Placements, Housing Retention and Average Length of Time Homeless, as to the actual and the target. Housing Retention surpassed the target. The other two areas need further work to accomplish the target.



Housing Resources and Challenges was very informative showing utilized, available and underdevelopment. Supportive Housing is the largest underdevelopment category. The 2023-2024 Housing Pipeline gave areas and dates for completion.

They completed their presentation with the 2023 VC CoC Board Recommendations, which were: Achieve zero Veteran homelessness in 2024; Expand transitional housing programs for TAY(youth); Reduce chronically homeless adults by 2024 with new additions of supportive housing; Encourage each jurisdiction to review their strategies to reduce homelessness; Expand the VC CoC Workgroup to partner people with lived experience for recommendations; Reduce the number of first time homeless by expanding prevention and diversion strategies.

VC CoC announced that they are awaiting a commissioned Ventura County Homelessness Community Survey what should be completed in June. The BOS agreed to wait until the survey is complete so they would have all the information to take further action on the homelessness issue.

The presentation was excellent and I would encourage you to read the full report on VC CoC's Alliance website. It appears that there is good coordination between agencies and the County. The BOS seem to be thoroughly interested and involved in working to solve the homeless issue. The plans have covered the necessary issues that need to be addressed to be effective. There also appears to be a lot of forward movement and commitment in resolving the homelessness issue. I would encourage the League Homelessness Committee to discuss both the 2023 State of Homelessness in Ventura County report and the Ventura County Homelessness Community survey to assist in our strategic planning efforts.



Observer Report #3

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

8:30 a.m. to noon

Observer Reporting: Carol Lindberg

Thirty-six items on the consent agenda passed with no dissenting votes during that time.

Between 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the board hears presentations and presents resolutions or proclamations to certain worthy organizations. The descriptions of

the organizations by leaders are always enlightening and heartfelt. They also take pictures of the whole group with the five supervisors. I'm pleased to learn about positive happenings in our county. One group they honored was Bikers Against Child Abuse. It's a national organization, and VC has a chapter. See their website: <https://bacaworld.org/fags/>. Their motto is: "No Child Deserves to Live in Fear"



Some the Proclamations:

- National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in VC
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week in VC
- National Library Week in VC
- National Child Abuse. Prevention Month in VC
- Take 5 and Read to Kids! Day in VC

The Director of General Services accepted the donation of Two Bronze Statues to be placed at the Veterans Memorial---Victoria and Telephone. It was a heartfelt presentation with a video about how they were designed.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

[Join or Renew Form | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

The dues rates for 2022-2023 are:

Individual Membership	\$75.00
Student Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$125.00
Associate Membership	\$25.00



Join at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here>
OR make your check payable to LWVVC and send it to
P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Membership Scholarships available with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Contributions Welcome

[Donate | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

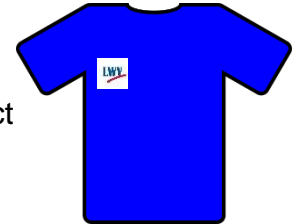
Tax deductible donations may be made to:

- General Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Voter Education Fund
- Ann Gist Scholarship Fund

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [here](#). If you wish to donate in remembrance of someone, please include their name and a few lines about their life. Please specify the fund you want to support. Thank you.

Raise Awareness of the League

Wear a **LWVVC Shirt** to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested. For shirts, please contact [Karen Savitt](#).



Making Democracy Work...

Please join us!

Membership Form Available online.

Website: LwvVenturaCounty.org

Email: info@lwvVenturaCounty.org

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVVenturaCounty>

Mailing Address: LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Phone Number: (805) 303-1476



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Find candidate funding and proposition information on:
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

All contributions are tax deductible.

The League of Women Voters, a grassroots non-partisan 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.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.