

LWV[®] League of Women Voters *of the* Monterey Peninsula

VOTER

February 2012, Volume 84, Number 5

General Meeting, Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Regional Water: Getting Beyond Stalemate

The **Regional Desalination Project** was moving forward in 2010. Major setbacks in 2011 led to numerous non-disclosure agreements, secret meetings and mediation. In early January 2012, very little evidence emerged to suggest workable progress. By mid-January **California American Water** withdrew its support of the three-party agreements. Other ideas and options regarding the Peninsula's water supply options are gaining traction. Recent articles and opinion pieces have identified the water supply crisis having a deadline of 2016 and 2017.

What does this mean to residents, businesses, and the river? What are the trends? Will there be water rationing? What happened, and what does the future look like? All proposed remedies are based on these factors.

George Riley hope to help the public to consider and see the water problem more clearly.

Brennan, LWV representative throughout the Regional Planning process, will address factors that have led to the stalemate, including lack of transparency; ignoring early warning signs; inadequate representation of ratepayers; and conflicts of interest.

Riley, **Citizens for Public Water**, intervener with CPUC, and LWV member, will identify ways to move forward to assure water supplies for the area. These include programs under development by the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management Agency** and the **Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency**.

At this meeting, speakers **Janet Brennan** and

Janet Brennan JanetB@montereybay.com
George Riley georgetriley@gmail.com

LWVMP General Meeting Luncheon

(General Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month)

Lunch begins 12 noon / Presentation starts 12:30

\$20 per person for lunch

(hot/cold entrée, salads, beverages, dessert)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, February 4.

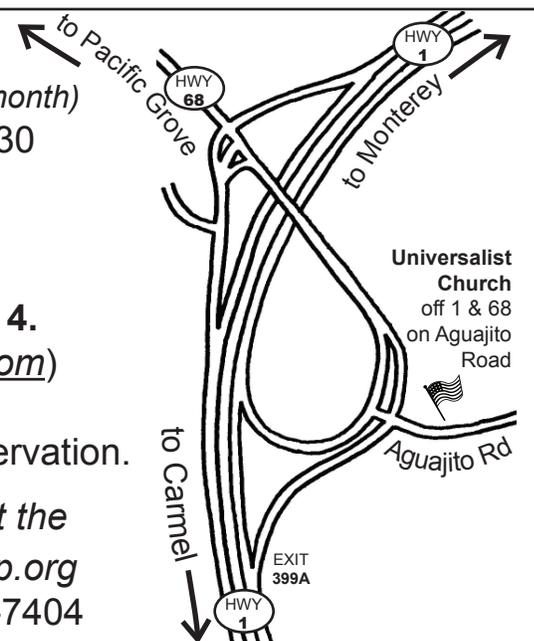
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Please pay at the door for lunch.

Lecture at 12:30 is **FREE** and does not require a reservation.

LWVMP General Luncheon Meetings are held at the

Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



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The PRESIDENT'S Message

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the **LWVUS Program Planning** process by making recommendations concerning program—this is how we remain a grassroots organization. During the process members have the opportunity to organize support for their issues. The LWVMP Board has scheduled our program planning meeting for **Wednesday, February 15** at noon at **Mariposa Hall** (*details on back page*). So far I have received information from two Leagues on their issues.

The **LWV Washington, DC** will sponsor a proposal for concurrence on Sentencing Policy which states that: “1) *The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime; and* 2) *The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.*”

A study published this month has revealed that up to 41 per cent of young people in the United States have been arrested by age 23 for something other than minor traffic violations. The United States is the largest jailer of citizens per capita in the world, with enormous economic and social costs. Much imprisonment is due to harsh mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. After imprisonment, having a criminal record carries a lifetime of daunting obstacles to succeed as a productive citizen.

The **LWV Columbia-Boone County, Missouri** has proposed a national study in support of violence reduction within the US and the establishment of a cabinet level **Department of Peace**. A study of the Department of Peace has aspects which fall under two general areas of League positions—Social Policy and International Relations.

The important aspects in the Social Policy area are violence reduction programs through: 1) school based educational programs teaching children conflict resolution techniques; and 2) programs reducing domestic violence and the associated violence against children by getting best practice programs widely integrated throughout the country. In the International Relations area the Department of Peace will focus US attention on: 1) training professionals to assist in dealing peacefully with both pre and post conflict situations; and 2) addressing developing problems early in the process before becoming an armed conflict.

Hope to see you at our program planning meeting with your ideas and opinions!

Beverly G. Bean BeverlyGB@gmail.com

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

Mayors Joint Powers Agreement to form the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority

The League sent letters to the **Pacific Grove, Monterey, and Seaside City Councils** about formation of a joint powers agency to manage the development of water for the Monterey Peninsula. We noted our active participation in developing a water supply alternative for the Monterey Peninsula and that we have consistently advocated for representation of the Peninsula ratepayers.

We commended the cities for attempting to address this important governance issue. We said:

“The proposed formation of a joint powers agency (JPA) to address this matter along with authority to pursue water supply options has been negotiated without public participation. The public has only had a little over one week to review a 23-page report and agreement. There are governance issues that have not fully been addressed such as representation for ratepayers in unincorporated areas of Monterey County, e.g., over one third of all California American Water customers live in unincorporated areas. Other questions remain.

We urge the City Council to postpone action on this item and to request the mayors to hold a public forum on the proposed formation of the JPA.”

The JPA has now been approved by the cities of PG, Carmel, and Sand City. The decision was postponed by the City of Monterey, and the status of Seaside is unknown as of this writing.

Del Monte Forest Projects

Two projects in the **Del Monte Forest** are being processed through the County—the **Pebble Beach Company** (PBC) which project includes

over 125 amendments to the Del Monte Forest LCP, and the **Poppy Hills Golf Course** project.

Our letters states:

“The environmental documents for the projects do not account for the cumulative impact of both projects. For example, the PBC project would remove up to 6,700 Monterey Pine trees. The Poppy Hills golf course project would remove 533 trees. Both projects include significant emissions during the construction phase with potential health impacts from diesel exhaust emissions.

In terms of climate change, the PBC project would emit up to 5,469 MT CO₂e, while the Poppy Hills project would emit 2,227 tons of CO₂ over the life of the project. While the second project’s impact may not be significant, when considered with the first, the total may be significant and require a larger amount of mitigation. Finally, the two environmental documents use different methodologies for addressing impacts on climate change.

We request that the two environmental documents address the totality of the impacts of both projects on the environment, use consistent methodologies for addressing climate change and that these documents be recirculated for public review and comment.”

Janet Brennan JanetB@montereybay.com

The Voter: League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula

Published monthly September through May
Deadline: second Saturday of the month

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Twitter User?

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Monterey Peninsula VOTER

published nine times per year

**League of Women Voters
of the Monterey Peninsula**

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942

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Lunch & Learn with the League



Date: **Wednesday, February 8, 2011**

Time: **12 noon lunch / 12:30 speakers**

Topic: **“Regional Water: Getting Beyond Stalemate”**

Speakers: **Janet Brennan and George Riley**

(see page 1 for luncheon venue and details)

February 2012

Program Calendar

Natural Resources Committee

LWVMP Program Planning Meeting

THURSDAY, February 9

WEDNESDAY, February 15

noon to 1:30pm

noon to 1:30 pm

(second Thursday of each month)

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

Contact: **Beverly Bean**, 484-2451

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