



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / February 2015, Volume 87, Number 5

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

“Climate Change: From Science and Policy to Action in Monterey County”

Speakers **Heather Adamson, AICP** and **Robin Tokmakian, PhD**, will cover how Climate Change manifests itself in our local area, how California state legislation is being implemented locally, and the difficulties in getting from policies to action.

Heather Adamson will discuss the implementation of **Assembly Bill 32** (*California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006*) and **Senate Bill 375** (*Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008*) locally.

Robin Tokmakian will discuss the science of Climate Change and also how the League of Women Voters takes action on it nationally.

Adamson is the Principal Planner at **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)**, with twenty years of experience in land use, housing, and transportation planning. Fifteen of those years were with the San Diego Association of Governments. Adamson has managed plans and projects covering sustainability, land use, housing, climate change, economic development, freight, and transportation planning. She prepared the Monterey Bay Area’s first Sustainable Communities

(continued on page 2)

**LWVMC February 11, 2015
Lunch & Learn Meeting**

(Held on the second Wednesday of the month)

Lunch 12 noon / Presentation 12:30

\$15 per person for lunch

(salads, beverages, and dessert provided by Café Athena)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, 7 February.

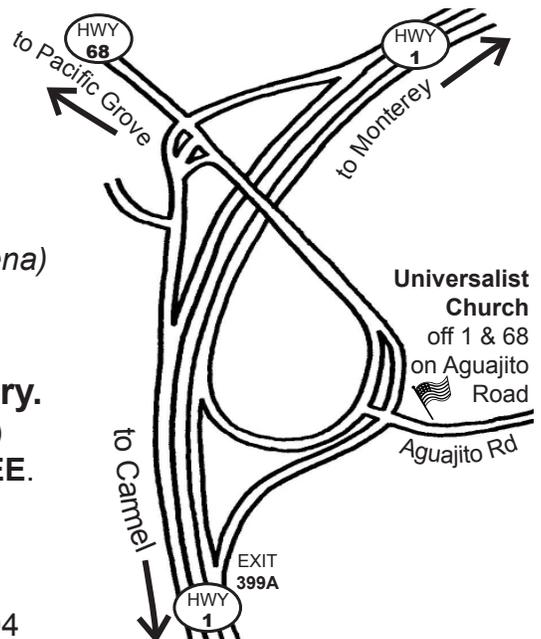
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Pay at the door for lunch: meeting/presentation is **FREE**.

LWVMC Lunch & Learn Meetings are held at the

Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>

490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404





One of the important responsibilities of the Board is to arrange for future **Lunch and Learn** meetings. *We are always eager to hear from our members about issues the League has positions on that might make for engaging luncheon topics.*

Our March 11th L&L meeting will be on the **proposed toll road for Highway 156**. Staff of the **Transportation Agency for Monterey County** will present background information and a status report on the proposed project. We have asked proponents and opponents of the project to describe their issues.

While the League has positions on transportation, the following LWVUS position on privatization is also applicable to the discussion: *Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of*



governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

At our April 8th L&L meeting we hope to have background information on the **Monterey Downs project** with proponents and opponents providing pros and cons. Hopefully, the **Environmental Impact Report** which is significantly overdue will be available by the meeting.

Finally, our **Annual Meeting** on Saturday, May 9th will not only be devoted to conducting **League business**, we will have an opportunity to hear **Royal Calkins**, former **Editor of the Monterey County Herald** and founder of the blog: **Monterey Bay Partisan**.

The Annual meeting will once again be at the **Salinas Valley Healthcare System**, 5 Lower Ragsdale Road.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

(continued from page 1)

Strategy in 2014 required under SB 375, which calls for focusing on better connecting local land use plans with regional transportation investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Adamson has a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and Planning from the **University of California, San Diego**, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from **San Diego State University**, and is a member of the **American Institute of Certified Planners**.

Robin Tokmakian has a PhD in Oceanography and is on the faculty at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Her undergraduate degree is in Physics. Her research involves exploring how our uncertain knowledge in the physical properties of the ocean may influence projections of future changes in our climate. Tokmakian is funded by the **National Science Foundation** and has also been funded by **NASA** and the **Departments of Defense and Energy**. Robin has served on the **LWV US Climate Change Task Force** for the past six years.

Robin Tokmakian, trillerud@mindspring.com

LWVUS POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world unless we act now—as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to cut this country's GHG emissions, freeze construction of new coal-fired power plants, invest in a new clean energy economy, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change.



Undisputable scientific facts¹ are the foundations for what, in the public sphere, is called “Climate Change” or “Global Warming.” The foundation is that if you add greenhouse gases (GHG, including CO₂) to the atmosphere, the world will warm. Since the industrial revolution we have been burning coal and other fossil fuels and cutting down forests all of which increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Complex scientific models that mimic the earth’s physical and biological systems are only able to replicate the past history of the earth when these historic and measured rates of atmospheric gases are included in the temporal evolution of the model earth’s atmospheric temperature.

It is widely accepted that the Earth is warming. Disputes on the issue of climate change generally fall into two areas: 1) what the cause of the warming is (man-made or natural), what physical and biological processes on earth are being modified as a result of the warming and the rate of warming into the future, and 2) what measures should be used to address it—should it be mitigation, adaptation, both, neither, or a mixture of both.

All the mitigation/adaptation measures have a cost related to their anticipated benefit. This cost/benefit ratio should be understood before any measure is implemented; however it is often difficult, if not impossible, to calculate.

Mitigation measures are those that directly or indirectly reduce the rate at which CO₂ (or other atmospheric gases) enters the atmosphere. Such measures include improving our energy efficiencies (indirect), replacing the use of coal fired electricity-generating plants with non-carbon or low-carbon electricity-generating sources (e.g., wind, solar, nuclear) (direct), or reducing the miles we drive (indirect).

Adaptation measures are those that cause us to modify the physical world or our behavior so that we are not personally impacted by a warmer earth. Building a sea wall to handle rising sea levels and growing different crops allow us to adapt to a warming world, without compromising our way of life, such as modifying our driving patterns.

With the federal government struggling to make progress in addressing a warming world either through mitigation or adaptation, some states have enacted legislation addressing climate change. In California, there are two significant laws that reflect the government’s commitment to make progress.



The first, enacted in 2006, AB 32 requires California to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, a reduction of approximately 15 percent. By 2050, the reduction should be by 80% of the 1990 levels. AB 32 addresses, primarily, mitigation. 18 state agencies are involved in various aspects of implementing AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The areas of focus are Energy, Transportation, Agriculture, Water, Waste, Natural and Working Lands.

Under AB 32, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) must adopt regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions. AB 32 is required to have a plan that is updated every 5 years. After eight years (2006 to 2014), we should be making significant progress towards the 2020 goal. In 2014, CARB updated the plan and included a figure charting the reduction in greenhouse emissions. This figure (8a,b) shows a 1.7% reduction between 2000 and 2012 of GHG. To reach the goal of 15% by 2020 will require much more significant reductions in the next 8 years. The highly touted “Cap and Trade” program for handling carbon credits is in its infancy (beginning in Jan 2013) and is only linked to the Canadian province of Quebec (the first auction with Quebec was in

Nov 2014). Under cap and trade, polluters must obtain one allowance for each ton of greenhouse gas pollution they emit, a system that allows the state to put a limit on the total amount of statewide pollution while holding each polluter accountable. The system rewards businesses that can find low-cost opportunities to reduce pollution by allowing them to sell excess allowances to other entities in the program. The Environmental Defense Fund (a co-sponsor of AB 32) indicates in a 2015 report that “capped emissions” have decreased by 4% during the first year of the program with a stable carbon market. This is at a time that California’s economy, in terms of GDP, exceeds the average GDP of the rest of the US (3.3% growth vs 2.5%). The second law a direct response to AB 32. SB 375 was passed (2008) to align transportation, land use, and housing guidelines with the goals of AB 32. The goal of SB 375 is to reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles through better-integrated regional transportation, land use, and housing planning that provides easier access to jobs, services, public transit, and active transportation options. The regional planning agencies (Associated Monterey Bay Area Government or AMBAG, locally) were assigned by CARB GHG reduction goals (through cars and light trucks). By 2020, AMBAG’s goal is 0% per capita change (from 2005 levels) and by 2035, 5%. This is in contrast to the reductions required by the Bay Area (7% and 15%, respectively) and the San Joaquin Valley region (5% and 10%). Approved in 2014, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy document provides the local transportation guidelines to meet our local GHG reduction goals. The success of the guidelines will be determined via performance measures such as measuring if there has been a reduction in work trips via car, quantifying GHG reductions, measuring farmland conversions, social equity of guidelines, and changes in alternative transportation use.

RESOURCES

CA Air Resource Board Information

www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013>

[update/first update climate change scoping plan.pdf](#)

Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainability Plan - Monterey

<http://ambag.org/programs-services/planning/metro-transport-plan>

Environmental Defense Fund Report

<http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/content/carbon-market-california-year two.pdf>

CA Climate Indicators

<http://oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/epic>

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/epic/pdf/ClimateChangeIndicatorsReport2013.pdf>

LWVUS Tool Kit

<http://bit.ly/1KqGBzj>

Local Changes in Climate

There are several aspects to a changing climate that are important for our local region. Concerns relate to rising sea level, changes to precipitation patterns, and local changes in temperatures in the atmosphere and the ocean, and changes in the local acidity in the ocean. If significant, the changes may affect the local fisheries, the local agriculture economy, land use along the coast, and our local supply of drinking water. Here is some information about our local trends and patterns related to climate in the Monterey area.

Sea level: The global sea level rise between 1993 and the present is 3.2+/- 0.4mm/yr. Regionally, the rise in sea level varies (see <http://sealevel.colorado.edu/content/map-sea-level-trends>). Off of Monterey (123°W, 37°N), the sea level rise is within the uncertainty of the global estimate – 0.28mm/yr.² While we should prepare for sea level rise, we are not in significant danger, such as the areas of the Tropical and South Pacific. One note of caution, it is unknown how changes in climate significantly change circulation patterns in the ocean. This may alter future estimates. Local sea level changes indicative of the change in temperature.

Storm-surge trends: Storm-surges, in many cases, are more damaging than rising sea levels. The strength of the wind and how long the wind blows determines the level of the storm-surge along a coastline. Research is ongoing³ to determine the impacts of the storm-surge signal along the California coast in light of warming conditions.

Precipitation trends: The long-term trend in rainfall in Monterey between 1949 and 2014 shows an increase of 0.03 in/yr or about 2 inches over this period of time. But, the last three years (2012-2014) have been the driest years since 1949.⁴

Temperature trends: The trends in temperature over the 1949 – 2014 period are interesting. While the average annual temperature shows only a very slight increase (~0.004°F/yr), annual minimum temperatures show an upward trend of ~0.03°F/yr, while the maximum temperature trend is downward (~0.02°F/yr).⁵

Ocean acidity trends: As the ocean takes up carbon, the ocean becomes more acidic. The **Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute** (MBARI) has been monitoring CO₂ and the acidity of the ocean regularly since 1993.⁶ The data show that the acidity has been increasing in Monterey Bay over the period between 1993 and 2011.

LWVUS Actions Related to Climate Change in 2014

The **LWVUS Climate Change Task Force** continually looks for opportunities for League members to make their voices heard. In addition, LWVUS has put together a Climate Change toolkit to provide background information on the subject to state and local leagues (<http://bit.ly/1KqGBzj>). Given the few to no opportunities in Congress to impact legislation related to Climate Change, LWVUS has been active in on two key issues outside Congress.

The League opposes the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which threatens to

pollute huge drinking water reserves, increase the world's dependence on dirty oil and increase the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

The League encouraged LWV members to write to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support the Clean Power Plan. The League will continue to be involved in the finalization of the regulations, the implementation process at the state level and in defending the regulations in the face of opposition in Congress. This Plan limits the amount of carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.

FOOTNOTES

(1) IPCC, 2013: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 1535 pp

(2) Data gathered from <http://sealevel.colorado.edu/content/regional-sea-level-time-series>, satellite and tide gauge data.

(3) Serafin, K. A., and P. Ruggiero (2014), Simulating extreme total water levels using a time-dependent, extreme value approach, *J. Geophys. Res. Oceans*, 119, 6305–6329, doi:10.1002/2014JC010093.

(4) Data from <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>

(5) Data from <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>

(6) MBARI (2011). Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute 2010 Annual Report. Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. http://www.mbari.org/news/publications/ar/2010ann_rpt.pdf

Robin Tokmakian, trillerud@mindspring.com



PESTICIDE REFORMS URGENTLY NEEDED



Following is a summary of January's Lunch & Learn meeting, "**Pesticides: Impacts on People and Pollinators**," presented by **Mark Weller** (Californians for Pesticide Regulations) and **Dale Hillard** (Hillard Hives & Wasp Removal).

Reform and immediate reduction of the vast tonnage increase of toxic pesticides over the past twelve years is needed. We cannot continue using the same outdated regulations and inadequate monitoring of past decades.

The Top Three Culprits

Toxic fumigant gases used to kill soil pests prior to planting strawberries and other crops (chloropicrin, methyl bromide, and Telone), put humans, wildlife, and our air and groundwater at documented risk for being poisoned. The **California Department of Pesticide Regulation** (CDPR) defends the use of such gases, and California has increased its usage in recent years (www.cehtp.org) even though such toxins have been banned outright in most of the **European Union** for years.

Safer alternatives are available and in use on organic farms throughout the industrialized world and in traditional farming cultures to preserve the health of populations and the environment.

Effects and Costs of Exposure

Illnesses, disability, and suffering from exposure affect not only fieldworkers but also adults and children in schools, homes, and businesses next to farms that use such pesticides. Breathing problems, including asthma, stinging eyes, headaches and burns to skin and inside throats are not always connected with invisible escaping gases.

Many suffer from problems of long-term exposure to pesticides, with Latino families experiencing the highest risks and burdens of illness and disability. Many, including doctors, don't recognize the symptoms of pesticide exposure.

The costs of exposure (including healthcare, absenteeism from work and school, disabilities, the

special education and lifetime needs of affected children and adults, and the emotional burdens of devastated families), have thus far not been of concern to the manufacturers of the pesticides, the applicators, the growers, and the shippers who profit from the use of these poisons.

Regulation and Practice Needs

New regulations by CDPR for chloropicrin (January 2015), fall far short of the major changes needed for this and other fumigants.

It is well past time to decrease the use of toxic gases in California: they can be phased out while incorporating Integrated Pest Management practices currently used in organic farming, and encouraging new alternatives. We also need: reliable enforcement of existing (though inadequate) regulations; close monitoring of mandated field posted warnings in Spanish and English; 1/4 mile (1,320 feet) buffer zones for safety; and better air and water monitoring at the most affected sites.

First aid measures should be provided on site by trained responders when fumigant drift is suspected. Updated regulatory actions must include training of fieldworkers and their families, and of health and emergency workers, on the signs of fumigant drift exposure to chloropicrin, methyl bromide, and Telone.

Further Information

Formore on the chronic effects of pesticide poisoning on human health see www.pesticidereform.org. For warnings about the dangers of and educational and emergency response information on chloropicrin, methyl bromide, and Telone, see the **Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets** at www.cardinalproproducts.com/sds-msds.

Carole Erickson, cje8270@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Welcome New Member

We look forward to having **Mary Julien** as a member for many years to come.

Thank You to Another Generous Member Volunteer Donor

Robin Tokmakian (along with others mentioned in last month's newsletter) also contributed her \$135 poll worker earnings to the **League Education Fund**.

Susan B. Anthony Renewal

Amy White kindly renewed her membership at the \$100 level.

50 Year Members

We congratulate, once again, our long time members:

Janet Brennan
Ann Clifton
Sally Gamble
Jennifer Greyson

We wish you all well, thank you for your support, and look forward to your continued membership and participation in our League!

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net



LWV EDUCATION ISSUES BLOG

The League of Women Voters Education Team blog promotes the exchange of information on school reform. We do fact-based studies and encourage posts with reference citations that contribute to understanding different views about school choice issues.

Subscribe at <http://lwveducation.com>.

Members and non-members welcome!

Sue Legg, LWV Education Coordinator,
smlegg@latam.ufl.edu



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

*Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?*

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC 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.

LWVMC Government Director Max Chaplin became active in the League about four years ago at the suggestion of **President Janet Brennan**, whom he'd known for many years.

He describes his latest project with the League this way:

"We've been working on contribution limits for local candidates, lobbying city government. In this case, asking them to set campaign contribution limits.

Pacific Grove has limits and Monterey should have them, too. Our County Supervisor, Dave Potter, has asked for a draft ordinance on this subject and, depending on how it looks when it's finished, the League might back it."

Max was born in China of missionary parents, but his family moved to Southern California when he was an infant, so he says China "... is not in my memory bank."

He grew up in Claremont, CA, east of Los Angeles. After high school, he headed for **UC Berkeley**, but the war intervened and, since most of his friends were a year or two older, he joined the **American Field Service** in 1944.

Max served as an ambulance driver with the **British 8th Army** in Italy and later, at the end of the war, in northern Germany. Upon his return, he completed his degree in International Relations at Berkeley, took the Foreign Service exams and joined the **US Foreign Service** in 1951.

His career with the Foreign Service took him to Japan, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia



and Argentina. In 1983, Max and **Cynthia**, his wife of more than 60 years, packed up yet again, this time to settle down near the town of Carmel, where she'd grown up.

With his long, worldwide background, it's clear that public service is nothing new for Max Chaplin. Since retiring to Monterey County, he's been active in a variety of regional organizations.

In addition to his work with LWVMC, Max served as **Chair of the Big Sur Land Trust, President of the Carmel Valley Association and Chair of the Carmel Valley Forum.**

This last organization promoted the Carmel Valley incorporation proposal a few years back. To Max's disappointment, that proposal failed, albeit by a relative handful of votes.



Currently, he is President of the mutual water company for his home's subdivision, which is located on the east side of Laureles Grade, overlooking Corral de Tierra.

When asked what his goals for LWVMC's future are, he replied, *"I would like to see the League grow in numbers and influence by advocating useful projects."*

The main project in which Max is currently invested is that previously-mentioned limit on campaign contributions for city office candidates. He expects to see a good draft ordinance on the subject emerge in the near future and hopes that the League will support it.

Nancy Jacobs, PGAuthor@comcast.net

LWV SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 22, 2015, 12 noon to 2pm

Keynote Speaker: California State Secretary of Natural Resources, John Laird
Seacliff Inn, 7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos, CA 95003

The LWVSC invites LWV members and the general public to a luncheon in celebration of its 50th year serving local voters. The Honorable John Laird will speak about water management issues in California.

RSVP before Thursday February 12: send a check for **\$30 per person**, payable to LWVSCC, PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010. Indicate choice of entrée: Celestino Salmon, Cheese Tortellini, or Chicken Seacliff. Contact **Dottie Fry** at (831) 688-9234, or league@lwvsc.org. For a downloadable flyer go to: lwvsc.org/calendar.

Pam Newbury, The VOTER Santa Cruz Editor, Newsletter@lwvsc.org

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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LWVMC 2015 Calendar



February

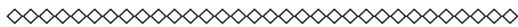
LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 9 February, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

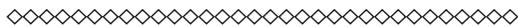
Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com



Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 11 February, 12 noon

*“Climate Change: from Science and Policy
to Action in Monterey County”
(see details on front page)*



Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 12 February, noon to 1:30pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

March

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, March, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

“Proposed Toll Road for Highway 156

Pros and Cons”

April

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, April 8th, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

“Monterey Downs Project Pros and Cons”

May

LWVMC Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 9th (time to be announced)

5 Lower Ragsdale Road, Ryan Ranch

“League Business”

and Guest Speaker Royal Calkins