

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

NOVEMBER 2014

LOOKING AHEAD

**DECEMBER 15
HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND
LWVC PROGRAM PLANNING
6:30 PM
MARILYN SINGER'S HOME**

**JANUARY 31, 2015
BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
"Climate Change in the Bay Area"
MTC Auditorium,
101 Eighth St, Oakland
Next to Lake Merritt BART Station
Registration 9-9:30
Adjourn 2:30**

Bay Area League Day 2015
January 31, 2015



**Keynote Speaker & Three Panels
*Measuring to Achieve Goals
Adapting to Sea Level Rise
Climate Justice & Local Issues***

IN and OUT of WATER

"Water, water, everywhere and not a drop to drink"

November 17, 2014 6:30 pm

Fremont Main Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd,

95% of California is experiencing some drought.

Our bodies are approximately 60-70% water.

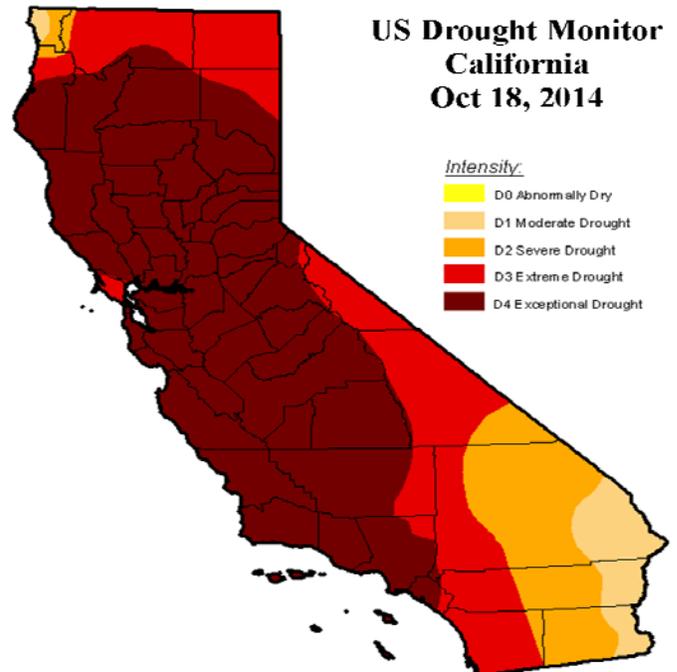
Is your brown lawn the new green?

Is your water bill going up/down?

Get expert answers and opinions from

Walt Wadlow, General Manager,
Alameda County Water District

Paul Eldredge, General Manager,
Union Sanitary District.



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It's a wrap; Election 2014 is over. Thirteen forums held, the Voter Information Booklet compiled and mailed, SmartVoter updated, pros and cons presented and distributed, articles and notices sent to the newspapers and online forums, Facebook updated and tweets tweeted.

Thanks to all of you who helped and there were many. We enjoyed a Volunteer Appreciation Night with great food where our members got to meet and mingle with each other. Look for a photo collage coming soon to our website, www.lwvfnc.org.

So what's next? We are talking water in and out at our November 17th General Meeting. We all know about the lack of water and are conserving but is there an impact on our sewer systems? Be part of the conversation and come to the Library for this timely topic; bring a friend or two.

And, we are gearing up for our Holiday Party/Program Planning meeting in December. Take a look at our local positions in your membership handbook. The last time they were updated was in 2007. The December meeting is a great time to bring forward your ideas for updates to local positions or a new study.

Carolyn Hedgecock
Sam Neeman

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Published 10 times a year by the League of Women
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(LWVFNUC)
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Taking Stock of the Water Supply

By Robin Meadows

Water. It flows out of the tap every time we want, cool, clear, and clean. We take it for granted even now, three years into one of California's driest stretches on record. But we can't go on like this for much longer — the Bay Area's water could start to run short in just two decades.

"Population growth will increase demand, and climate change will reduce the supply and increase demand," said Heather Cooley, director of the Water Program at the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based nonprofit dedicated to sustainable resource research.

The Bay Area's population is projected to rise about 25 percent in the next two decades, from 7 million people today to 9 million in 2035. And without preparation there won't always be enough water for us all. Our expected water demand will exceed the supply by nearly 7 percent in a dry year, and by more than 11 percent in the worst case scenario of multiple dry years, according to the 2013 *San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan*, which was developed by representatives from local water supply and treatment agencies, local and state government, and nonprofit organizations.

Our future is likely to be drier, partly due to warming from climate change. "Increased evaporation off watersheds could decrease water supplies by 5 to 10 percent," said Jay Lund, director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. In addition, when it's hot out, water demand rises because people use more for their landscaping.

Moreover, climate patterns going back thousands of years raise the possibility that

upcoming droughts could be worse than any we've experienced lately. "California has seen much bigger, longer droughts," Lund said. "In medieval times, there were a couple of droughts in Southern California and the Eastern Sierras that lasted about 100 years." This conclusion was reached by UC Berkeley paleoclimatologist Lynn Ingram, who used indicators like tree rings, which are wide during wet years and narrow during dry ones, forming a record of the past.

While the future may be daunting, it isn't here yet and California cities are using almost as much water as usual despite the extreme drought. In January of this year, Governor Jerry Brown requested a 20 percent voluntary reduction in urban water use. But we were only using 5 percent less at the end of May, revealed a June 2014 survey by the State Water Resources Control Board, which divvies up state water.

That said, the Bay Area's water use is already relatively low. About half of California's urban water goes to landscaping, and the Bay Area uses less water outdoors because much of our land is urban with a cool climate. Daily use per person is less than 100 gallons in San Francisco compared to 200-300 gallons in the Central Valley, according to the 2013 report *Future-Proof Water: Where the Bay Area Should Get Its Water in the 21st Century* by SPUR, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that focuses on Bay Area planning and government.

In addition, while supplies are down in much of California — reservoirs were at 54 percent of the average volume statewide in July — water remains sufficient in much of the Bay Area. "It's not dire there yet," Lund said.

The San Francisco Bay Area hydrologic region, a major drainage basin that is smaller than the nine-county region, gets nearly 40 percent of its water from Sierra Nevada-fed reservoirs that are close to full. Much of the

East Bay's water is from the Pardee Reservoir in the Sierra foothills, which was at 87 percent capacity in mid-July. Likewise, much of San Francisco's water is from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite, which was at 97 percent capacity in mid-July. Hetch Hetchy also supplies considerable amounts of water to Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties.

The rest of the Bay Area's water comes from local sources and government water projects. Local surface waters and groundwater account for about 30 percent of our water, and another nearly 30 percent is delivered by the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP). These projects, which funnel water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, have curtailed water deliveries sharply this year. The CVP is giving the Contra Costa Water District only half of its historic supply, and SWP allocations are down to just 5 percent of usual.

For now, water conservation is voluntary in most of the Bay Area, with water agencies asking us to use 10-20 percent less. The few exceptions where mandatory restrictions have passed are primarily in hotter, more suburban areas, according to the Association of California Water Agencies. These include Cloverdale, Healdsburg, the Santa Clara Valley, Fremont, Newark, Union City, Pleasanton, Dublin, and part of San Ramon, which have mandated 20-25 percent cuts, and Livermore, which has mandated cutting outdoor use in half.

"Our water problems are solvable," said David Sedlak, co-director of the Berkeley Water Center at UC Berkeley. "The worst thing would be being caught unprepared — we don't want to respond to a water shortage in panic mode." Citing Australia's recent decade-long drought, Sedlak explained that when Brisbane's reservoir was down to just a year or so of water, major cities there built costly desalination plants that for the most

part are little-used today.

We can save a lot of water with technologically simple fixes such as repairing the leaks that waste 11 gallons per person per day in California, switching to the front-loading washing machines that use a third as much water as top-loaders, and replacing lawns with drought-tolerant plants. Such efficiency measures could decrease the Bay Area's water use by 40 percent, according to the 2014 report *The Untapped Potential of California's Water Supply* by the Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

We can also create new supplies by capturing the stormwater that now runs off into the sea, and by recycling graywater — from sinks, bathtubs, showers, and washing machines — for use in toilets and on landscaping. Together, these sources could provide more than 30 percent of the Bay Area's water, the report stated. Recycling can also turn wastewater into drinking water. Orange County has replenished groundwater with ultrapurified wastewater since 2008.

Updates to our water supply will take time to finance, design, and put in place. "Cities are usually insulated from the worst of droughts but our water systems are not designed for megadroughts or climate change," Sedlak said. "We need to start planning today — we'll be lucky if our new systems are built in 20 years."

Robin Meadows

(www.robinmeadows.tumblr.com) is the reporting fellow for the 2014-15 Water Education Initiative. Created by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund to promote better understanding of regional water issues, the initiative is underwritten by the Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Biosolids to Energy, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the League of Women Voters of Marin County, Louise Anderson, the Marin Municipal Water District, Marion Taylor, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the Sonoma County Water Agency.

40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR Reviewing Regional Issues

Since 1974-75

***Bay Area Monitor* History, Part I: Dawn of the Clean Air Era**

By Leslie Stewart

A new federal mandate, with penalties for non-compliance within a short time frame, requiring major changes in how states, local jurisdictions and the public behaved — in 1970, this was the Clean Air Act. Unpopular in car-loving California, it needed ambassadors to explain it to audiences ranging from uninformed to hostile. The League of Women Voters took on this issue in the Bay Area; 40 years later, the focus is still central to the *Bay Area Monitor*.

The 1970 Clean Air Act, replacing a limited and weaker version from 1967, authorized the newly created Environmental Protection Agency to penalize states which did not meet the new stronger standards within five years. It mandated changes in car emissions and industry practices, but what dismayed local jurisdictions most was a line which was put into the legislation at the last minute, requiring “land use and transportation controls” in state air quality plans if necessary to meet the federal criteria.

In a 1971 press release from the EPA, Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus warned, “If we are to meet the legal deadline for carbon monoxide, then, some cities may have to require drastic changes in their commuting habits.” Because auto emission controls would not have an immediate impact, many areas would not achieve compliance until the 1980s, he predicted.

Looking back from a world in which most cars have catalytic converters, industry emissions are heavily controlled, and an extensive network of mass transit serves the region, it is difficult to remember what an upset the new air quality legislation created. In the Congressional Record, Senator Ed Muskie, a

major sponsor of the Clean Air Act, acknowledged the extent of the changes that would be required: “The whole complex of residential patterns, employment patterns, and transportation patterns – the way in which people move about, go to their work, and live ... must be modified if the objective of clean air is to be achieved.” Muskie went so far as to suggest that “the use of motor vehicles may have to be restricted.” California’s love affair with the car was under attack.

It’s also hard to remember how a group like the League of Women Voters had to structure an educational outreach program in a world without social media — in fact, without much local broadcast media. Approached by EPA Region 9 Administrator Paul DeFalco to run a grant-funded information effort in the Bay Area, the League initially developed a filmstrip presentation for community groups. Content focused on the link between transportation and air quality, a new concept for many at the time, and on some of the ways in which communities could change, such as adding mass transit.

Adelia Sabiston, former longtime air quality director for the LWVBA, remembered that “the format was obsolete so quickly that when we wanted to use the film on KQED a few years later, none of their equipment would run it.” The League rapidly moved on to a more traditional presentation with slides and trained speakers.

EPA’s next grant to the League funded a “Transportation Alternatives Project,” structured to take advantage of the “observer corps” that most local Leagues already had in place to monitor local elected bodies such as city councils. Reports from these observers, together with information acquired by the project manager, Holly Hollingsworth, contributed to a series of reports tracking transportation and land use decisions around the region that could affect the progress toward meeting the clean air standards. The project found a temporary home in the offices of Berkeley’s Claremont Hotel, where the newly-formed Metropolitan Transportation Commission shared space with the Association

of Bay Area Governments.

By 1975 — the original deadline for compliance with 1970 Clean Air Act standards — so many officials, planners, and activists were focusing on the air quality impacts of transportation and land use that it became clear the League's reports had a growing audience. The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area decided to hire Hollingsworth as the editor of a new publication to track these issues. Called the *Bay Area Monitor*, it was "aimed at motivating the public to reduce motor vehicle pollution emissions in order to achieve better air quality and improve the quality of life within the affected community," according to a letter of introduction signed by Geri Stewart, the League's president at the time. The first issue, still funded by the EPA, appeared in May 1975.

Leslie Stewart is the most recent former editor of the Bay Area Monitor.

GO PAPERLESS

Go Green and go paperless! Did you know each *Voter* sent by mail costs almost \$1.00? Each month we send every member and some non-members an *eVoter*. You can either read it on your computer or get a printed version by clicking on the download button on the email. Help us go green and save money by going to our website <http://www.lwvfnc.org/> and click on "Go Paperless" under the "News Letter" tab.

Beginning in 2015 non-members will no longer receive a *Voter* by U.S. Mail. "Go Paperless" and receive the *eVoter* instead.



BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY – SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, January 31, 2015, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Metro Center, 8th and Oak St, Oakland, CA

The theme this year will be **Climate Change**. Speakers and panels will address Bay Area wide impacts of climate change; national, state and, especially, regional actions and policies that can mitigate the inevitable adverse effects of climate change, point the way to local and global solutions, and contribute to economic growth and environmental justice.

A keynote speaker will kick off the event with three panels of experts to follow. The panels will discuss ways to measure success, adapting to sea level change and climate justice/local issues. For information and to suggest topics or panel members, contact Linda Craig at craighughes@earthlink.net.

Nov 10	Board Meeting,	6:45 pm, Fremont Community Activities Center 3375 Country Drive - Dining Room
Nov. 13	Action Meeting,	12:00 Noon, Community Activities Center 3375 Country Drive
Nov. 17	General Meeting WATER IN, WATER OUT	6:30 pm, Fremont Main Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd.
Dec. 15	Holiday Potluck and Program Planning	6:00 pm Marilyn Singer's Home LOOK FOR THE EVITE!

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 9:30-2 PM

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

“CLIMATE CHANGE”

MTC AUDITORIUM, 101 EIGHTH STREET, OAKLAND

LWVFNUC WILL PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND.

MEMBERS PAY FOR THEIR OWN LUNCH OR BROWN BAG IT.

THE MTC AUDITORIUM IS ADJACENT TO A B.A.R.T. STATION.

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Sets Amann, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal
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