



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

SEPTEMBER 2011

100th Anniversary Celebration of California Woman Suffrage

On Oct. 15, our League will celebrate the 100th anniversary of California Women's Suffrage. Co-sponsors include The American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the National Organization for Women (NOW). Fremont Main Library will be the site for the event that will feature a Reader's Theatre with dialogue that will highlight the pro and con arguments of the time. Participants will be in period attire. The celebration will start at 2 P.M. You are encouraged to wear 1911-style period dress!

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New League Year Kicks Off with Meeting about Repairing California's Finances

Monday, September 12, 7:00 P.M.

at

**Fremont Congregational Church
38255 Blacow Road, Fremont**

Guest Speaker: Mark Paul

California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How It Can Be Repaired co-author **Mark Paul**, visiting scholar at UC Berkley's Institute of Governmental Studies, will present his views on how our Golden State's fiscal woes originated and offer possible solutions to fix our partisan gridlock.

Uniquely qualified to assess California's political quagmire, Mr. Paul has served as deputy treasurer of the state of California, national editor of the *Oakland Tribune*, and award-winning columnist for the *Sacramento Bee*. Mr. Paul will allow plenty of time for questions and comments. League members can anticipate a lively discussion, especially from those who have read his book.

Be sure to invite your friends (and prospective members) to join us for this special program.

This event is free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

See related story on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Democracy isn't a spectator sport and membership in the League of Women Voters shouldn't be either. We challenge you to put the League a little higher on your priority list.

To entice you, we have four excellent programs, all very different, to start the year. Our September Kickoff will feature Mark Paul, co-author of *California Crackup and How It Can Be Fixed*. In October, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in California with AAUW, NOW and many other organizations.

November will feature the LWVUS study on the Federal Role in Education, and in December we will party while cogitating on LWVUS program planning.

At the same time, we will try to increase our membership with a contest and a mentoring system. Don't you know someone who would be interested in League? Ask them to join or at least come to one of our fall meetings.

We won't forget Voter Service. Newark will have a city council and mayor election and a possible bond measure for schools.

If you haven't already done so, send in your dues and help us celebrate and cogitate and activate this year.

Miriam Keller
President

The Voter

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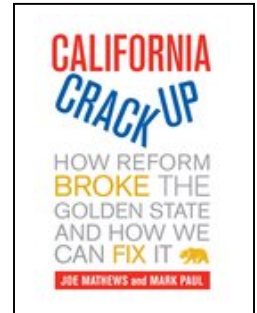
Is California Beyond Repair?

California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How It Can Be Repaired

(Note: Co-author Mark Paul will be the guest speaker at the League kick-off on September 12.)

A sizable number of Golden State citizens have concluded that California is beyond repair. Incessant budget crises plus a government paralyzed by partisan gridlock have led to demands for reform, even a constitutional convention. But what, exactly, is wrong and how can we fix it?

In *California Crackup*, Joe Mathews and Mark Paul provide clear and informed answers. Their fast-paced and often humorous narrative deftly exposes the constitutional origins of our current political and economic problems and furnishes a uniquely California fix: innovative solutions that allow Californians to debate their choices, settle on the best ones, hold elected officials accountable for results, and choose anew if something doesn't work.



Reviews

"California Crackup is brilliant. It cuts through the familiar tangle of diagnoses and quick-fix solutions to provide a comprehensive and persuasive analysis of California's dysfunctional governmental system. Paul and Mathews have coolly laid out a complicated story, made it readable, sometimes even comedic. It is the best discussion of the issue I've seen in over three decades."

—Peter Schrag, author of *California: America's High-Stakes Experiment*

"Mark Paul and Joe Mathews have produced an indispensable guide to California's crisis of governance—and they have done so with

humor, scholarship, fairness and storytelling verve. Every Californian should read this book."

—Steve Coll, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Ghost Wars*

"If you've grown weary of California's annual budget stalemates and furloughs, if you're frustrated by the Legislature, if you feel California is broken, then *California Crack Up: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It* should be required reading . . . The book is a concise and lucid analysis of how the state arrived at its current mess, as well as offering strategies to address what's ailing it."

—Oakland Tribune

Join Discussion of Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a discussion group that meets the first Wednesday of the month. At the beginning of each year, the Foreign Policy Association publishes a Great Decision briefing book. This book presents eight of the most important foreign policy issues facing the USA. Reference and resource material is included to help you prepare for the discussions. Cost of the reference book is \$15.

This is a joint collaboration of AAUW and LWV. The next meeting will be Sept 7th. For questions or more information contact Anne MacLeod or Miriam Keller.

Wanted: Smart Voter Liaison

We need someone with moderate computer skills to be our Smart Voter liaison. For every election we invite all candidates to put their information on the League web site www.smartvoter.org. We add all of our candidate forums and non-opinion articles that we find in newspapers. If any part of this interests you, call or email Miriam Keller.

Wanted: Observers

Woof Woof! Join League Observers as they “**watchdog**” our public agencies. We do this by observing council and board meetings. The process is best if the observer sits in the board or council room, wears an observer badge, takes notes but doesn’t say anything. It can also be done by watching on cable or videostream. This is a great way to learn how government works. If you are interested, contact Kay Emanuele.

Renewals & New Members

The League welcomes new and returning members. If your name is missing that means that your renewal check has not yet been received.

Setsuko Amann, Tina Bonaccorsi, Mavis Brown, Suzanne Chan, Sarabjit & Pritam Cheema, Ann & John Crosbie, Ellen Culver, Mary Ann Dillon, Caryl Dockter, Kay Emanuele, Randy Fewel, Doug Ford, Barbara Friedrich, Susan Gearhart, Bryan Gebhardt, Janice Gebhardt, Ruthie Gomez, Joann Greene, Scott Haggerty, Alice A. Harris, Carolyn Hedgecock, Kevin Herd, Jean & Bill Holmes, Julianne Howe, Syeda Inamdar, Allia Yunus, Alice Johnson, Dianne Jones, Miriam & Jack Keller, Cathie Kelly, Joanne & John Landers, Patricia Lane, Carolyn Linnard, Lynn Locher, Charlotte & John Lowrey, Anne Macleod, Isabelle Mc Andrews, Phyllis Merrifield, Joyce Mueller, Doris Nikolaidis, Muriel Nolan, Donna Olsen, Sandra Pantages, Eleanor Pickron, Beth Polland, Mary Roulet, Andrea Schacter, Dave Fishbaugh, Marilyn & Bob Singer, Elinor Smith, John & Sybil Smith, Jeffrey Spencer, Pete & Deborah Stark, Alexandra & Peter Starr, Kathy Steel-Sabo, Jerry Sabo, Beth Templeton, Robert Wieckowski, Susan Lemke, Judy & John Zlatnik, Sister Marge.

Remember you can send in a check OR renew online at www.lwvfnc.org

Celebrate Syeda

Join us in celebrating one of our own. Our president in 2007-2009, Syeda Yunus, now Syeda Inamdar, is the new Government Director on LWV California’s board! After two years as our President and another two years chairing the Alameda County Council of Leagues, Syeda has moved on up to the state board. We wish her continued success. Our loss is the state board’s gain.

LWV Welcomes New Member Dianne Jones

Dianne Jones has three children in FUSD schools and has volunteered at the unit and council PTAs serving in a variety of rolls from Auditor to Art Docent to Yahoo Group coordinator, but has focused on Emergency Preparedness programs. Dianne has volunteered at the FUSD district level on the Superintendent's Safety Subcommittee and the FUSD Health and Sex Ed Advisory Committee. Dianne is interested in the LWV's Education Committee.

Initiative and Referendum Study

At the LWVC Convention of 2011, the delegates voted to update a study of the Initiative and Referendum Process in California. In June 2011, we sent out requests for participants to all of the California Leagues for the study committee. We received outstanding resumes and recommendations and the following people were confirmed as members of the study committee at the July 2011 LWVC Board meeting of 2011:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Local League</i>
Natalya DeRobertis-Theye	LWV San Francisco
Wanda Ginner	LWV South San Mateo County
Amy Hjerstedt	LWV San Diego
Barbara Insatsugu	LWV Santa Monica
Xandra Kayden	LWV Los Angeles
Gail Maiorana	LWV Los Angeles
Joan Surridge	LWV North County San Diego
Joyce Tavrow	LWV Palo Alto
Mary Thompson	LWV North County San Diego

Members of the committee will develop study scope, timeline and budget, study materials, and consensus questions. The committee will also prepare community education materials on the initiative and referendum process and review/tabulate all of the responses submitted by participating Leagues. Based on those results, the committee is tasked with recommending position language to the Board.

To assist them in some of these responsibilities, we have Matthew Enger, who is a summer volunteer with the LWVC until August 20, 2011. Matthew Enger will be entering UC Berkeley in the fall and he is working about ¼ time creating an annotated bibliography for the Initiative and Referendum Update Study Committee.

If you would like additional information or would like to participate in this committee or this process, e-mail Syeda Inamdar at sinamdar@lwvc.org

Redistricting Update

A year ago we were excited about a volunteer panel choosing the boundary lines of legislative districts. Now that we've seen the maps for the Tri-City area, we are filled with foreboding. Fremont is either cut into pieces or paired with Santa Clara (where's that)? To keep up to date visit www.wedrawthelines.org.

Thanks to our Donors!

Mavis Brown
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 Julianne Howe
 Joanne Landers
 Patricia Lane
 Anne Macleod
 Elinor Smith
 Alex & Peter Starr

Role of the Federal Government in Public Education:

Where We Are Now and the Impact upon Early Childhood Education

Produced by the LWVUS Education Study

The United States has changed dramatically since the early debates on public schools. The responsibility for education for the common good shifted from mainly local control to state control. Now, in 2011, attention is coming from the federal government and national organizations to control standards.

Congress is currently in a debate and stalemate over the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965 ESEA, reauthorized as “No Child Left Behind” in 2001). Major issues include the purpose and role of the federal government in public education.

Pro: An increased role of the federal government in education ensures equal education opportunities for all children across the country, so that we will be better prepared to compete globally. The federal government has always had a part in distributing funding to state and local school districts for specific needs, so there will be more consistency across the districts and states.

Con: Education has traditionally been a local and state issue. An increased role of the federal government will add to the number of unfunded federal mandates (laws passed with no monetary support). Decisions at the local level best serve the needs of students in the local area.

Funding for Early Childhood Education

This Brief covers the reasons for the federal role in public education relating to early childhood, the importance of parent education, and the pros and cons related to federal intervention in early childhood education.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) creates standards and guidance for early childhood providers across the country. Their position statements

promote and endorse an integrated, well-financed system of early care and education for the learning and development of all children, including children in poverty.

Pros: From an economic standpoint, achieving equity builds lasting value. Heckman’s (2010) research shows that inequality in the development of human capabilities produces negative social and economic outcomes at every level and can be prevented by the proper investment in people. Early childhood education, particularly for disadvantaged children and their families, levels the playing field to provide equal opportunities for success. Every dollar invested in early childhood education returns ten cents on the dollar annually for the life of a child, a 10 percent per year return on investments. Furthermore, solid economic returns are possible, providing investments come early and are comprehensive, cohesive, and sustained over time, because it shapes the future and builds equity. Heckman warns that investing later chains us to fixing the missed opportunities of the past that are very costly. Heckman’s research clearly documents the impact of quality early childhood education upon later success in school, and beyond, in health and in economic advantages for society in general.

Cons: Reasons against the federal involvement in early childhood basically come from providers of childcare centers as well as legislators. Some argue that universal preschool will be too expensive to support and that it will take away funding for K-12 grades. Educators who own and manage private preschools raise concerns that parents will choose “free” preschools instead of private ones.

Continued on next page

Timeline of Major Federal Programs for Early Childhood up to 2010

Title	Year	Purpose
Head Start	1965	Funded by U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to provide children from low-income families free access to early education. It also includes children who are at risk and with disabilities.
Even Start Title I, Part B.	1988	Integrated early childhood education to low-income parents for children birth through age 7, integrating adult education and early childhood learning with family literacy programs.
Early Head Start	1995	Funded programs for low-income families supporting 2 generations, usually mothers and infants and toddlers.
Title I of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)	Many revisions since 1965	Local education agencies apply to state agencies for approval of the program that is subsequently funded by the federal government.
No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	2001	Promotes the use of Title I, Part A, to fund pre-school programs, recognizing the importance of preparing children for entering school with language, cognitive and early reading skills.
Early Reading First	2002	Extends the goals of NCLB under Reading First to preschoolers.
Special Education preschool grants and state grants programs 3-5	2002	Part of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding for preschool students ages 3 to 5.
Special Education Grants for Infants and Families	2007	Part C of IDEA (birth to 2 for children with disabilities)
Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	Many revisions since 1990	The Child Care and Development Fund assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.

References

Heckman, J.J. (2010, December). Invest in early childhood development: Reduce deficits, strengthen the economy. Retrieved from <http://www.heckmanequation.org>

Education Liberty Watch (March 20, 2011). Retrieved from <http://edlibertywatch.org/2011/03/studies-on-effectiveness-of-early-childhood-programs/>

Read more contrasting viewpoints:

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/early-childhood><http://edlibertywatch.org/2011/03/studies-on-effectiveness-of-early-childhood-programs/d/articles/47611.aspx#ixzz1FZSLilX8>

Produced by the LWVUS The Education Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education
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Education Study

Join the League in a spirited consensus meeting on Sat., Nov. 12 at the Fremont Cultural Arts Center, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont. We will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a delicious lunch break. The background materials are worthy of any League wonk interested in this topic. There are many diverse and thought-inspiring consensus questions. We will be providing more background information in the October and November *Voter* issues. For now, circle the date on your calendar and take a look at the first consensus question (and this is an “easy” one).

Q. #1

The current role of the federal government in public education is:

☐ Much too small ☐ Too small ☐ About right ☐ Too large ☐ Much too large

LWV BAY AREA

League to Host Forum on Senior Mobility

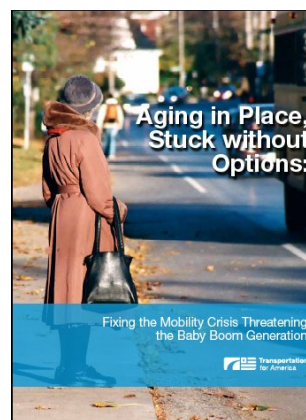
Is the Bay Area prepared for a “silver tsunami”?

As the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, the region is seeing a dramatic increase in its elder population. From 2010 to 2020, the number of seniors in the Bay Area is expected to rise by 35 percent. This shift demands additional planning for the specific needs of people 65 years or older — especially with respect to transportation, given that driving starts to become a less optimal option for this demographic.

In order to address this pressing challenge, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville will host an upcoming senior mobility forum featuring

many speakers with expertise on transportation and aging.

The forum will be held on **Wed., Sept. 21 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** in the community meeting room on the third floor of the Berkeley Public Library at 2090 Kittredge Street, just off of Shattuck Avenue. The library is adjacent to the Downtown Berkeley BART Station and several AC Transit lines. This event is free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible. For more information, call (510) 839-1608.



Keeping an Eye on the Redwood City Saltworks Development Project

Redwood City staff has informed the League of Women Voters that the proposal for the controversial Redwood City Saltworks development project (covered in the February/March 2011 *Monitor*) is being revised in response to the collective results of the first scoping sessions held earlier this year. It's assumed the revised proposal will be submitted sometime in September and further scoping sessions will follow a month later. For more details, visit www.redwoodcity.org/phed/planning/saltworks/index.asp.

Deficit, Debt, and Debt Ceiling

■ We've been hearing almost nothing else in the news these days, so the Action Committee asked member Sam Neeman to define the terms for us.

The Federal Deficit is the difference between the amounts of revenue collected by the government and committed government spending. Depending on whom you listen to, the deficit this year is between 33% and 40% of the total Federal budget. This means that the Treasury department issues bonds to cover somewhere between 33 and 40 percent of this year's spending, which is similar to you or me living on our credit cards to make ends meet. Compared to interest rates on credit card debt, and in spite of the recent Standard and Poor's (S&P) downgrade to AA+ from AAA, the Federal government pays very little in interest since U.S. government bonds are considered one of the safest investments in the world.

The Federal Debt is what the government actually owes to bond holders. This number is constantly going up. About 10 seconds ago it was \$14,594,625,607,345; yes, that is over \$14 trillion dollars or about \$46,783 per citizen in the U.S. This debt is estimated to be over 100% of our Gross Domestic Product by 2012. The three largest contributors to the deficit and the debt are Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, and Defense. See the chart of U.S. spending for 2011.

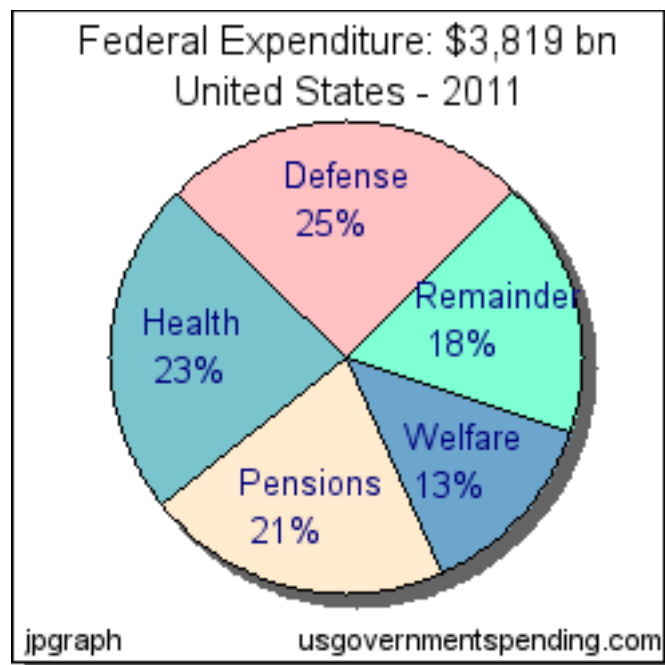
The Debt Ceiling was established by the Public Debts Acts passed in 1939 and 1941. The Treasury is authorized to issue debt up until the debt ceiling is raised. The ceiling is reached when already voted upon and approved spending exceeds the previously set debt limit. Congress recently raised the debt ceiling to authorize additional borrowing to pay for spending already approved by Congress.

How we solve the debt problem affects all of us and will possibly include

spending cuts as well as tax increases.

Sources for the pie graph and the definitions:

www.debtclock.org,
www.usgovernmentspending.com
www.usgovernmentspending.com
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_public_debt



Taking It to the Next Level

By Alec MacDonald

“In terms of technology, there’s great news, and that is that our efficiency toolbox is well-stocked,” declared Dan Reicher about the prospects for promoting clean energy. “The less good news is that the policies and finance we need ... aren’t currently up to the task. And that’s really what we’ve got to be thinking about.”

Reicher offered this observation in his keynote speech for the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area’s annual Bay Area League Day on January 29. In addressing the theme for this year’s forum — “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Taking It to the Next Level” — the executive director of the Steyer-Taylor Center at Stanford University underscored the difficulty of advancing environmental sustainability: Plenty of mechanisms exist to push things forward, but all too often, there’s neither the money nor the will to apply them.

Many of the League Day presenters who followed Reicher described how this dilemma arises in their own specialized fields and explained how they manage to overcome it. Jo Zientek, deputy director for the City of San Jose’s Integrated Waste Management Division, revealed, “When I go to my higher-ups and say, ‘Let’s invest in this new technology, let’s invest in this new program,’ the primary words I use are ‘economic development’ and ‘jobs.’ And secondarily, I say, ‘And we’ll recycle some stuff.’”

Her comment appeared to reflect a general consensus that successful environmental initiatives must deliver more than just environmental benefits, especially during times of financial hardship. As former California Energy Commissioner Art Rosenfeld noted, America didn’t institute substantive energy-saving measures until the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries imposed its 1973 embargo. The subsequent spike in the price of oil forced a

paradigm shift, spurring “the beginnings of modern U.S. efficiency programs, and in fact even modern environmental programs.”

Rosenfeld went on to mention that standards for buildings and appliances have risen dramatically ever since, resulting in vast savings of both energy and money.

Beyond these improved baseline standards, opportunities continue to arise for pushing the envelope. Proactive homeowners in the Bay Area and across the state can cut their bills with remodeling rebates and resources available at www.energyupgradeca.org, said presenter Wendy Sommer. The Website is offered by a new collaborative alliance known as Energy Upgrade California, implemented in Alameda County by Sommer’s agency, StopWaste.org.

Individual residents aren’t the only ones looking to slash expenses through eco-improvements. Giant organizations hope to do so as well, as evident in a presentation by a pair of staff members from the Port of Oakland. In addition to a pioneering collaboration with StopWaste.org that salvaged more than a thousand tons of valuable timber from an obsolete warehouse, the Port has also pocketed millions of dollars reusing various kinds of industrial construction materials. Even the spoils from the dredging of its ship channels have gone toward restoring tidal wetlands around the region.

As such attempts to conserve become more commonplace, “Waste is a term that is going to

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gradually fade from our vocabulary,” anticipated Richard Sinkoff, director of Environmental Programs and Planning at the Port. “Everything that we use is a resource — it’s just up to us to figure out how to reuse it if we’ve used it once.”

This sentiment was echoed by Lori Steere, who gave a presentation about the East Bay Municipal Utility District’s reliance on recycled water. Agencies like hers will increasingly need to depend on this source for irrigation and other non-potable applications, she said, because the overall demand for water is outpacing supply. Yet people still show a lot of skepticism about the practice, which worries her, since “without the public support for recycled water, it’s just not going to happen.”

Winning the tide of popular opinion will prove crucial in introducing many other innovations as well. In the transportation sector, two emerging technologies have been gradually gaining approval as viable options. A sample survey of AC Transit passengers revealed strong enthusiasm for the bus operator’s expanding hydrogen fuel cell program, said presenter Jaimie Levin, who touted the diesel alternative for the fact that it produces only steam as an emission. Not everyone can be convinced to take transit, however, so presenter Damian Breen suggested the electric car as another green mobility choice. The director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Strategic Incentives Division, Breen said his agency has been striving to establish the regional charging infrastructure required for prospective drivers to feel confident that these vehicles won’t ever leave them stranded with a depleted battery.

Younger generations have the greatest stake in whether or not these and other sustainability campaigns receive widespread acceptance, as they face the longer-term consequences of

global warming and other threats to the environment. To confront such future threats, students need to begin preparing today, argued presenter Nate Ivy, coordinator for Alameda County’s Service-Learning Waste Reduction Project.

“We right now in schools are asking students to solve problems that we all know the answers to,” he remarked, but “we are doing very little to give students opportunities to solve real problems — and as you’ve seen today, there are plenty of real problems that we as the adults haven’t figured out yet.” Ivy asserted that young people can simultaneously make a difference in their neighborhoods and acquire academic skills when they participate in beach cleanups or community garden cultivation. These kinds of service activities can incorporate math and science lessons such as how to set up an experiment, collect and sort data, or write a report.

In one of many specific examples, Ivy relayed a story of how students conducted a comprehensive energy audit at Fremont’s Irvington High School. After finding numerous instances in which electricity was being squandered, they helped the school devise ways to decrease energy usage by 33 percent, and earned a Flex Your Power award from Pacific Gas & Electric in the process.

The anecdote stood as an uplifting response to the appeal Dan Reicher had made at the start of the day when he called for exactly this type of bolder thinking. In fact, the forum as a whole showcased that, at least around the Bay Area, many individuals have summoned the money and the will necessary to attain environmental sustainability.

To view Bay Area League Day videos and presentation files, please visit www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html.

The Fast and the Furious: Debate over High-Speed Rail Rages On

Excerpted from an article by Deirdre Newman

Will the high-speed rail project become California's Waterloo, or will it become a heralded part of California's modern transportation infrastructure? Well, it depends who you ask.

There is no shortage of buzz about the project. The intense scrutiny is inevitable, considering that this is the first transit project in decades that affects both Northern and Southern California.

The latest debate over the project sets up a clash between the state, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the federal government, which has attached strings to the funding it's providing.

The high-speed rail project garnered enough support in 2008 for voters to pass a \$9.95 billion bond act, Proposition 1A, which was essentially a down payment on a project to be funded by a combination of state, federal, local, and private funds. The current price tag is about \$43 billion for a system that, when extended north to Sacramento and south to San Diego, will span about 800 miles.

As the Rail Authority gears up for a hoped-for construction start in the fall of 2012, a report from the state Legislative Analyst's Office assailed the Rail Authority for uncertainty of additional funding, limitations due to federal deadlines and conditions, and the governing structure of the Rail Authority itself. The LAO report, made public in May, laid out four main recommendations.

First is that the Legislature reject the administration's 2011-12 budget request for \$185 million for consultants to perform project management, public outreach, and other work to develop the project and only appropriate the \$7 million in funding requested for state administration of the project by the Rail

Authority. In its response, the Rail Authority noted that during recent budget hearings, the Legislature did not agree with this recommendation. The Rail Authority went on to say that a delay of three months or longer would jeopardize the project because of the potential loss of talented and experienced team members, the effect of inflation, and missing critical milestones for receiving \$4 billion in federal funding.

The second recommendation is that the Rail Authority seek flexibility on the use of federal funds and only proceed with the project if this flexibility is obtained. In response, the Rail Authority said it has already asked for flexibility and was rebuffed.

The third recommendation is that the Rail Authority reconsider where the first phase should be constructed. The Rail Authority reaffirmed its commitment to start in the Central Valley, including among the reasons that construction can start and finish there faster than in other places. The rebuttal says that building in the Central Valley and connecting to existing rail systems in urban areas reflects the way high-speed rail systems have been developed around the world.

The fourth recommendation is that the responsibility for the development of the project be shifted from the Rail Authority to a new and separate division of Caltrans dedicated to high-speed rail. The Rail Authority responded that

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wherever the project is placed, it must be given the resources it needs to succeed. One of its major responsibilities is to determine the environmentally preferred alignment between now and next summer, and the project can't be built without these determinations.

Stanford University Professor Emeritus Alain Enthoven believes the demand for high-speed rail is "just not there."

"The [Rail Authority's] business plan talks about 35 million riders or more," he said. "Absolute fantasy. They would be lucky if they got 10 million riders a year, and ... that would leave the whole thing in a deep fiscal hole."

Enthoven is particularly piqued about the Rail Authority's financing of the project.

"[The Rail Authority] estimated \$15 billion for San Diego to Sacramento, and in Prop. 1A, they estimated that at \$33 billion," he said. "A year later it became \$43 billion for only San Francisco to Los Angeles... Now, the Legislative Analyst's Office thinks that at least \$66 billion is more realistic. Remember, this debt would have to be serviced, that is interest and principal, all of which would come out of education."

Former Rail Authority board member Curt Pringle remains an ardent fan of the project. Pringle believes that the LAO report was off base, according to an article in the *Orange County Register*, asserting that the report was written without talking to anyone involved with the project.

"A project of that size—stretching from San Francisco to San Diego, crossing through 17 counties—is bound to have an effect on a lot of people, and reason says some aren't going to like it," Pringle said, adding that the best way to overcome criticism is to keep the momentum going.

The Rail Authority anticipates releasing the draft environmental reports in early August for public comment, said Rail Authority spokesperson Rachel Wall. A final alignment is scheduled for decision by the Rail Authority's board of directors next spring.

The City of Palmdale has filed a lawsuit against the Rail Authority to stop an alternative study that would take a planned rail stop out of its city. Located between Los Angeles and Bakersfield, Palmdale is suing the Rail Authority over its study of an alternative route that would go through the Grapevine, similar to I-5.

On the Peninsula, a number of legislators have requested that the Rail Authority implement a so-called "blended plan" that: explicitly rejects any elevated structures or viaducts from San Jose to San Francisco; remains in the existing Caltrain right of way; and is based on a short-term environmental impact report, rather than a report for a phased project of larger dimensions over a 25-year timeframe.

A similar approach has been endorsed by the cities of Palo Alto and Burlingame as well as the Bay Area Council, according to Adina Levin, co-founder of Friends of Caltrain. Caltrain is conducting a capacity study to determine whether and how high-speed rail service could be operated together with Caltrain in the corridor. Friends of Caltrain, which focuses on local and regional transit and doesn't have a position on high-speed rail, believes the legislators' proposal could be a win-win if important questions can be addressed about business viability and technical feasibility, she said.

The Rail Authority board heard the staff report on this item on July 14. No action was taken, but the San Francisco-San Jose segment was likely to be on the agenda for the board's August meeting, Wall said.

CALENDAR

Sept. 1	Action Committee	12 Noon at Kay Emanuele's house
Sept. 12	Education Committee	10:00 A.M. at Miriam Keller's house
Sept. 12	Annual Kick Off Meeting "California Crackup"	7:00 P.M. at Fremont Cong. Church 38255 Blacow Rd, Fremont
Sept. 21	Forum on Senior Mobility <i>Sponsored by LWV Bay Area</i>	1- 2:30 P.M. at Berkeley Public Library 2090 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley Library is adjacent to Downtown Berkeley B.A.R.T. station & AC Transit lines
Sept. 27	Board Meeting	7:15 P.M. at League Office 2375 Country Drive, Fremont
Oct. 15	California Woman Suffrage Celebration <i>Co-sponsored by A.A.U.W. & N.O.W.</i>	2:00 P.M. at Fremont Main Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont
Nov. 12	Consensus Meeting on LWVUS study "The Federal Role in Public Education" Box lunches will be served.	9 A.M.- 4 P.M. Fremont Cultural Arts Center 2375 Country Drive, Fremont

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.

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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.

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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 Andrea Schacter, Membership Chair, for information.

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