



# Alameda Voter

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## Point Development and traffic from a regional view Feb. 17

**A**lamedans and residents who live on and use the various shores of the San Francisco Bay are keenly interested in how the development of Alameda Point will affect the region and impact traffic.

are keenly interested in how the development of Alameda Point will affect the region and impact traffic. There has been a lot of discussion in our community about what is going to happen, and how it will impact us in terms of traffic, housing, and economic growth. But we haven't heard directly about what our neighbors think. This, of course, is an important aspect of doing a development that makes sense for the region and works well for us.

To gain a better understanding of others' concerns, the League of Women Voters will host a panel discussion on "A Regional Perspective: The Development of Alameda Point" Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m., in the parish hall at Christ Episcopal Church, Alameda.

Panelists will include Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker and transportation engineer Chi-Hsin Shao, who has been retained by the city of Oakland and other Oakland organizations to study ideas for improving the Broadway-Jackson links between the Webster and Posey tubes and Interstate 880.

## And the raffle winners were ...

Leaguemembers went home with great prizes after the Alameda League of Women Voters' Holiday Party Dec. 9.

Mike McMahan bagged First Prize: tickets to a Warriors-Suns Basketball Game.

Second Prize went to Nancy King, who spent Jan. 2 at the Raiders-Jaguars game.

Pat Sahadi pocketed Third Prize: tickets to an A's game next season.

Fourth Prize included three coffee and tea baskets. The winners were: Elaine Kofman, Jane

Jones and Kenneth Kofman.

Fifth Prize was a Democracy T-shirt and book which went to Juelle Ann Boyer.

And the lucky winner of a special prize donated by Assembly-member Wilma Chan -- a wooden box with the seal of the California State Assembly -- was, appropriately, Kate Quick

Our thanks to Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker for her donation of the sports tickets, and to Wilma Chan Also, thanks to Board Member Li Volin for the donation of the Democracy T-shirt and book.

## Jan. 29 is Bay Area League Day

It's time again for all Bay Area league-members to come together and strategize on how to take regional planning issues from the dream stage to reality.

"Bay Area Regional Planning -- from Vision to Reality" is Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Metro Center Auditorium in Oakland, 101 8th St., across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station.

The schedule includes the Keynote "Making Regional Planning Work," with Ted Droettboom, Regional Planning Program Director, ABAG-MTC Joint Policy Committee.

On the Panel for Alternative Models for Regional Planning are Revan Tranter, former Executive Director of ABAG; Will Travis, Executive Director, BCDC; and Nick Bollman, Director, California Center for Regional Leadership.

A Panel for Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally, four local elected officials' give a perspective on the challenge of implementing the regional vision and values at the local level. They are Sue Lampert, Councilmember, San Mateo; Pamela Torliatt, Councilmember, Petaluma; Nate Miley, Supervisor, Alameda County; and David Cortese, Councilmember, San Jose.

Cost is \$10; RSVP to Martha Goralka, martha@goralka.com, or send checks payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege, Treasurer, 80 Florada Ave. Piedmont CA 94610. After, there's a no-host lunch and a tour at the Fruitvale BART station to see how a well-planned regional transit station was achieved.

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# Will League oppose casino project on estuary?

One would think that the months of December and January would be pretty quiet with the holidays and the ensuing holiday fatigue, but not this season, oh, no!

We are monitoring the casino issue, which came up rather suddenly in two lively meetings and is now being worked on at the County Council and Bay Area League levels as a regional issue.

We also participated in the Sikh Temple election in Fremont (thank you, Lena Tam), and had our consensus meeting on the State Education Position Update Jan. 20 (thanks to our presenters and to Miriam Schiffman, our able moderator).

Linda Hudson, Lena Tam and I are putting together a panel for the Feb. 17 public meeting on Alameda Point development from the regional perspective.

Our nominating committee will be working this month and next on finding out who will take over the Board responsibilities come our June annual meeting, and Audrey Lord-Houseman is looking for committee members for the Spring "Meet Your Public Officials" event.

Sally Faulhaber is gathering more data for the Housing and Transportation Study, and she and Lynn Groh are

working on the consensus questions.

## No Dice, Casino

As of now, the cities of Oakland, Alameda and San Leandro, and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors have all taken stands against the casino proposed by the Koi Nation band of the Pomo Tribe to be built at Doolittle Drive and Swan Way, across from the Oakland Airport.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kate Quick

The opposition is based on environmental and social damage they feel will be created. The potential for environmental damage is tremendous, as the site is surrounded on three sides by a newly restored marsh, home to endangered clapper rails and many other birds and creatures of nature.

Many, including County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, have cited statistical evidence that social problems may abound when gaming is put so close to an urban setting, such as gambling addiction, spousal abuse and increased child poverty.

As this is clearly a situation that will affect the whole region, not just Alameda, I raised the question with the other six Leagues in the County, who, with us, form the County Council. They and Bay Area League will be considering the matter in their upcoming meetings.

I, and Liz Rogers and Li Volin attended the meeting held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to hear testimony on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

We were pretty dissatisfied with how the meeting was conducted. While we did not speak officially as League, we took good notes and asked for the written materials promised for follow-up.

Other League members attended the meeting held in Alameda which

## Help us out

■Get people out to the meeting at Christ Church on the 17th of February at 7:30 PM to hear and ask questions of our panel on Alameda Point Development from the Regional Perspective

■Be prepared to say "yes" to the nominating committee when they call.

■Contact Audrey Lord-Houseman to say you will help with the "Meet Your Public Officials" event planning

■Call Sally Faulhaber and ask how you can be of help with the Housing and Transportation Study.

was so crowded not all could get in. At both meetings, the testimony was overwhelmingly against the casino project. We will keep you posted on the progress of this important issue, and if any of you are interested in continuing the tracking and monitoring, let me know.

## Sikh Temple Election

Lena Tam and I volunteered to spend a Sunday as poll workers to assist the Fremont League. Some 8,000 Sikhs were eligible to vote in this court-ordered election for leadership of their Temple.

The election was contentious, and so retired Judge M.O. Sabraw and the League were asked to assist with making sure things went smoothly.

Many of those voting (over half of those eligible) said they were voting for the first time in any election. They profusely thanked the League for helping, and I think it was a real testimonial to the solid name of the League of Women Voters that we were asked to do so. As it turned out, the election went pretty smoothly, despite the weather and the long lines, and the votes were counted the next day and the results announced without incident.

### The League of Women Voters of Alameda

President: Kate Quick

Vice President Administration:

Luann DeWitt

Vice President Program:

Linda Hudson

Secretary: Sally Faulhaber

Treasurer: Pat Caito

Voter Editor: Cara Watkins

The current and past issues of the *Voter* are posted on our website:

[www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org)

The *Voter* is published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Alameda

# Board actions for December and January

At its January 5 meeting, the Board:

- planned for several general meetings: January 20, the state education study; January 31, annual League program review; February 17, the Oakland perspective on Alameda Point development;
- heard a report on proposed bylaw changes;
- voted to cooperate with League

of Women Voters of the Bay Area and Alameda County Council to speak in opposition to the proposed casino next to the Oakland Airport.

At its December 1 meeting, the Board:

- decided to participate in the study to update our state education position and to make it the subject of our January meeting;

●agreed to hold our annual review and recommendation session on national and state program at a breakfast meeting on January 1;

●decided to ask a speaker from Oakland to present their perspective on the traffic problems around the Posey and Webster Tubes; and

●discussed progress on our housing study.

## *Membership Open House welcomed two new members*

Our membership open house was a success - six prospective and new members joined Board members Kate Quick, Donna Vaughn and Linda Hudson Jan. 15 to learn more about the League of Women Voters.

We happily welcome new members Shubha Fanse and Golda Mason who joined at the Open House.

\*\*\*\*\*

IF you haven't sent in your membership renewal, please do so by the end of January. At that time, our membership information must be submitted to the US and California LWVs to calculate the per member dues.

Contact Jean Fong at 522-7797 or js-fong1@comcast.net if you have any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following are new email addresses for some members:

- Betty Purvis Hatch: bettypurvis@att.net
  - Elaine Kofman: ek2944@aol.com
  - JoanneMcKray: joannemck@alamedanet.net
  - Karen Scanlon: yakitt@aol.com
  - Marion Sherman: mekals@alamedanet.net
- These changes will appear on the final 2005 membership roster.

## Clean Elections program Feb. 19

A program of interest to League members on clean elections, featuring Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, will be presented Saturday, Feb. 19 by the Oakland LWV.

The Center for Governmental Studies is a non-partisan research organization located in Los Angeles, which studies politics and media.

Stern is regarded as an expert on campaign financing, electronic filing of campaign finance statements, state and local ethics, and the initiative and recall processes. He has testified before a number of legislative bodies, as

well as Congressional committees in both the Senate and the House and has appeared as an expert witness in campaign finance and initiative lawsuits.

In 1981, Stern was elected chairman on the Council of Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), an international organization of state, federal and Canadian agencies that regulate campaign financing, ethics and lobbying laws.

The meeting, from 10 a.m to noon, will be in Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, which is very close to the 11-12 St. BART station; there is also free parking in the garage behind City Hall.

## Leaders discuss energy issues Jan. 28

The most significant decision makers in the state will gather Friday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the LWVC Northern Forum on Current Energy Issues.

This is somewhat of a precedent-setting event what with the increasing need for regional planning of energy facilities, and to some extent, water facilities.

The forum is in the California Public Utilities Commission Auditorium, at McAllister and Van Ness in San Francisco.

It is co-sponsored by the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) and the CEC (California Energy Commission).

## It's not too early to plan for April's 'Democracy Dinner'

On April 22, LWV California is hosting a 'Democracy Dinner' in San Jose, featuring speaker Nancy Soderberg, former Ambassador to the United Nations.

Important political figures and representatives of the corporate powerhouses of Silicon Valley have been invited. Funds raised from this dinner will benefit the LWV California Education Fund's efforts toward voter registration, participation and education.

As part of this festive evening, we plan an auction of items or activities, one from each League in California, to add to the fun and profit.

We are asking each League to donate at least one auction item that will highlight the unique features of your area. The item could be a case of wine, a stay at a resort or B&B, a dinner featuring foods unique to your area or with a well-known host or chef, an adventure such as a boat trip, or kids' party at a local attraction. The auction item is a terrific way for your League to showcase all that is best about your area.

The event will be at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose and there will be a special price for League members.

Please contact auction co-chairs Ann Crosbie (crosbieclan@comcast.net) or Lucile Spurlock (caspurlock@aol.com) with your donation information. If you submit your donation information by January 31, it can appear in the invitation.

## LWVC wins some, loses some

We are always pleased when bills that the LWVC supports are signed into law. At the end of September, the Governor signed bills supported by the League which will:

- change the date of the California primary election from March to June (SB 1730)
- put library bonds on the ballot in November 2006 (SB 1161)
- define, for solar water heating systems and photovoltaic systems, what constitutes a "significant" increase in cost or decrease in efficiency, to prevent local agencies from putting up unreasonable barriers to their installation (AB 2473)
- require child welfare agencies to attempt to keep teen parents in foster care and their children together as a unit, and to provide them with services designed to strengthen the parent-child bond and the minor parent's ability to provide a permanent and safe home for the child (SB 1178)
- establish requirements that must be met by nonpublic schools which provide special education to foster youth who live in licensed institutions and foster family homes (AB 1858)
- revise the process for allocating shares of the regional housing need to cities, counties, and subregions for all income levels and implement consensus-based changes proposed by the Housing Element Work Group (AB 2158)
- prohibit cruise ships from incinerating wastes onboard within three miles of the California coast (AB 471)
- phase in water meters in Sacramento, Lake Tahoe and other areas which have never had water meters (AB 2572)
- add to the requirements for an Urban Water Management Plan adopted by an urban water supplier by requiring the plan to describe the opportunities for development of desalinated water as a long-term sup-

ply (SB 318).

The League is disappointed that the Governor vetoed several bills that we had hoped would make a difference and improve government in California. These vetoed bills would have

- required improved review of tax expenditures, as that would be helpful in the annual budget process (AB 2106). Our call to action on the California Tax Expenditure Account-ability Act is on the LWVC Web site, [http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/perf\\_review](http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/perf_review)

- allowed a pupil serving as a poll worker to be included in computing a school's average daily attendance (AB 1944). This bill was meant to encourage qualified high school students to serve as poll workers.

- permitted purchase of prescription drugs from Canada by the Department of General Services and the Medi-Cal and AIDS Drugs Assistance programs at reduced prices, required a review of potential savings by state agencies, and established Web sites to advise purchase of pharmaceuticals from Canada (SB 1144, SB 1333, and AB 1957). The Governor promises to make a legislative proposal on the issue in January.

- allowed CalPERS to take part in a prescription drug purchasing consortium with other private or public entities (AB 1958)

- restricted local governments ability to deny or place restrictions on the development of second unit housing (AB 2702). We welcomed the proposed standards for second unit ordinances; the Governor felt they took away too much local control.

- protected the rights of students to have a parent present when they are formally questioned by a peace officer at school (AB 1012). The Governor thought the provisions were too broad.

## 'Motherhood by Choice, Not Chance' DVD Available Now

"Motherhood by Choice, Not Chance," is a powerful documentary created by filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman who also created the award-winning trilogy "From the Back Alleys to the Supreme Court and Beyond." This new 27-minute film shows how real the threats to reproductive choice are today--as significant as they were before Roe v. Wade. The film is available on DVD for \$5, or even less if bought in quantity. Information about the film and the Power of Choice project is available at [www.thepowerof-choice.net](http://www.thepowerof-choice.net).

The Power of Choice Road Trip began in a test-mode in Sacramento on June 8 at the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom's Lobby Day. Beginning in August 2004, volunteers traveled across the country, holding screenings and discussions in selected states, collaborating with local activists to support ongoing community efforts. Venues will range from college campuses to organizational meetings and conferences, to churches and temples, to libraries

The DVD comes in two versions: The EDUCATIONAL Version is intended to increase understanding of reproductive rights issues and provide nonpartisan voter education. It was edited especially for 501(C)(3) use.

## Medicare counseling from HICAP

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) provides free counseling on Medicare, billing and claims, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Medicare HMOs, and Long Term Care Insurance.

Talk to a HICAP counselor today!

Who: Marlene Fong

Where: Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker's Office  
15903 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.

Please call (510) 839-0393 to schedule an appointment.

## Check out state *Voter* online

The League of Women Voters of California has initiated an electronic California Voter in order to keep as many members as possible (and the public) updated between distribution of paper Voters.

For the latest issue, we have created an electronic mailing list that includes every member for whom we have an email address.

If you want to down-

load the PDF file for the latest Voter, click here: <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvc/publications/voter/November04.pdf>

If you want to download the PDF file later, you can go directly to the newsletter page of the LWVC web site -- <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvc/publications/voter/> Note you can download past Voters from the same page.

## Keep in touch with League

Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number or email address? Does your League have the best ways to get in touch with you? Don't let the League lose contact with you.

Send any new contact information to Jean Fong, membership director. Write her at 734 Palmera Court, Alameda, CA 94501. Call her at (510) 522-7797. Or email her at [js-fong1@comcast.net](mailto:js-fong1@comcast.net)

## Access the Voter on the Web

The *Voter* is now available for viewing on your computer. Past issues have been uploaded as .pdf files. All you need is Acrobat Reader to open them.

The League's web site is [www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org).

### Handy Web sites

- Oakland League:  
[www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)
- Bay Area League:  
[www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)
- State League:  
[www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)
- National League:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)
- LWV Smart Voter:

- [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)
- LWVBA Monitor:  
[www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)
- Sen. Barbara Boxer: [senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)
- Sen. Diane Feinstein:  
[senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)
- The White House:  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

# Calendar of events

**Friday, Jan. 28**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. LWVC Northern Forum on Current Energy Issues, Californai Public Utilities Commission Auditorium, McAllister and Van Ness, San Francisco. See story page 3.

**Saturday, Jan. 29**, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bay Area League Day, Metro Center Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland. See story page 1.

**Wednesday, Feb. 2**, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Board Meeting, home of Luann DeWitt, 2917 Central Ave., Alameda.

**Thursday, Feb. 17**, 7:30 p.m. "A Regional Perspective: The Development of Alameda Point." Christ Episcopal Church, Grand and Santa Clara, Alameda. See story page 1.

**Saturday, Feb. 19**, 10 a.m. to noon, Program on Clean Elections, Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. See story page 3.

**Wednesday, March 2**, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Board Meeting, home of Luann DeWitt, 2917 Central Ave., Alameda.

**Friday, April 22**, time to be determined., Democracy Dinner, Doubletree Hotel, San Jose. See story page 4.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education.

## Join the League of Women Voters

Cut out, fill in and mail this coupon with your check to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

**Dues:** \$53 for a single membership; \$20 for an additional membership at the same address.

Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Alameda.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: Local, county, Bay Area, state and national.

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