



League of Women Voters of San Diego County

COUNTY VOTER

Spring 2008

An Inter-League Organization (ILO) - City of San Diego ■ East San Diego County ■ North Coast ■ Escondido

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The information contained herein is for the use of League members only and cannot be republished or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the League of Women Voters.

President's Letter

On behalf of the San Diego County League, I welcome you to our new Website - www.sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org. This popular channel of communication will increase our dialogue and connection. The Calendar link will enable us to become aware of League events throughout the County. Gail Tullao, North Coast San Diego County League Treasurer and Webmaster, is also the County webmaster. Her seven years of webmaster experience with the North Coast League has helped us get started with confidence and will facilitate the expansion of our website.

The County League's appointment of two League members to distinguished transportation committees has expanded the opportunity to follow transportation planning in San Diego County. Ramona Salisbury Kiltz, San Diego League member, has been appointed to represent the County League on the San Diego County Airport Advisory Commission. This committee reviews and advises the Airport Authority on redevelopments and improvements at Lindbergh Field. A lot of expansion and road improvements are planned and it is great that she will be at the four quarterly meetings. Nan Valerio, County League Regional Governance Director, has accepted a seat on the Caltrans External Advisory Liaison Committee (CEAL). This committee monitors transportation needs of regional stakeholders and customers. Currently the TransNet Early Action Program can issue bonds to work on Interstates I-15, I-5, I-805 and State Highways 76 and 52.

Eddie Cisco, County League County Government Director, continues as an observer of the Board of Supervisors. She is following the supervisors' development of a different kind of fire protection program for the County's unincorporated areas.

At the bottom of the County League website's home page is a link "email the league". We welcome any

questions, comments, and/or articles to be posted on our website.

Nancy McCleary
County League President

Conservation Group Amends Lawsuit Over Corridor Designation

Press Release from The Center of Biological Diversity on March 12, 2008

LOS ANGELES— The Center for Biological Diversity today amended its federal district court lawsuit challenging the Department of Energy's October 2007 designation of the Southwest National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor — a sweeping, 45-million-acre area that includes seven southern California and three Arizona counties — for failing to analyze the environmental impacts of the corridor to at least 95 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

"The Energy Department has turned a blind eye to the impact of federally siting electric transmission lines and facilities in this huge area," said Amy Atwood, staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. "There are dozens of endangered species in the area that are already suffering the effects of habitat loss and degradation and will only be pushed further toward the brink of extinction as the result of huge transmission projects designed to serve southern California's energy demands."

The Department of Energy designated the Southwest Corridor pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, allowing for "fast-track" approval of utility and power line projects within the corridor, nullifying state and federal environmental laws, and enabling energy companies to condemn private land for new high-voltage transmission lines.

Background: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 required the Department of Energy to analyze and report to Congress on areas experiencing electric transmission “congestion” and designate such areas as “national interest electric transmission corridors.”

On October 5, 2007, the Department of Energy designated two such corridors, one of which was the Southwest Corridor. As a result of the Department of Energy’s designation, proposed projects in the Southwest Corridor are subject to an abridged permitting process orchestrated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which includes opportunities to override state agency decisions denying a project, use eminent domain to obtain rights-of-way across private lands, appeal federal agency denials of permits, and short-cut environmental reviews.

On December 21, 2007, the Center filed a formal notice of intent to sue the Energy Department over the Southwest Corridor for failing to analyze the impacts of the corridor on the at least 95 endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Today’s amended complaint adds violations of the Endangered Species Act to the federal district court challenge.



Women’s Hall of Fame 2008 Induction

Sylvia Hampton, County League V.P, has been selected to be inducted into the San Diego Women’s Hall of Fame. She will be honored for her significant contributions to the quality of life for women and outstanding volunteer contributions in SD County.

Sylvia is from the “show me” state of Missouri where she attended the University of Missouri at Columbia. She first joined League of Women Voters in 1970, became a board member of her local League and chaired the state study on Juvenile Justice. As an active volunteer at Planned Parenthood, she was tapped to serve on President Nixon’s Title X Family Planning Council for three years. She was soon the coordinator of the Family Planning Information Center, a hotline and resource center sponsored by Title X and Planned Parenthood. In 1977 Hampton joined the staff of Reproductive Health Services as the Health Rights Advocate where she developed an education program for families and friends of patients and wrote Involving Significant Others, A Health Rights Advocacy Program Guide. She organized the first Missouri state coalition of pro-choice groups and developed a document called Seeking Common Ground with activists against legal abortion in St. Louis which focused on the areas of agreement each group shared with the other. She retired in 1987 as the Director of Public Affairs and Community Education and moved to San Diego. She joined the San Diego LWV to learn about San Diego and its politics.

In 1989-90 Sylvia chaired the San Diego study on school based health centers. This led to the Hoover High School health center still in operation today. She served as local League president from 1994-96 and then president of the County League of Women Voters for two more years. She currently is also a Management Training Advisor for three San Diego County Leagues.

Sylvia served as president of the Coalition for Quality Health Care, a community organization that was formed to preserve Sharp HealthCare as not-for-profit and oppose their take over by the for-profit Columbia HCA. The coalition became Health Care for All CA/ San Diego Chapter. She was appointed to the county Regional Healthcare Advisory Council that later became San Diegans for Health Care Coverage, which seeks to provide access to health coverage for the uninsured in San Diego County. She also served on the Emergency

And the Winners are:

The following is the list of prizes and winners for the 2008 LWVSDC raffle. The drawing was held during the February 8, 2008 board meeting. Prizes were distributed during the following week. The LWVSDC board appreciates the prize contributions and raffle participation from all of the Leagues. The fundraiser netted more than \$3,200, which will assist in promoting League activities that benefit the entire region.

Home Depot \$100 gift certificate	Betty Newton EC
La Jolla Playhouse \$108 gift certificate	Jane Slack, NC
La Jolla Playhouse \$108 gift certificate	Rosemary Straley, SD
Old Globe Theatre \$50 gift certificate	Betty Law, SD
Old Globe Theatre \$50 gift certificate	Faye Nance, EC
Personal training session and gift basket	Jane Gawronski, SD
Ca Center for the Arts \$100 gift certificate	Lorna Wilson, NC
Portrait session with Julie Edwards	Vivian Doering, Esc
Cohn Restaurants \$50 gift certificate	Betty Weinberger, SD
Weekender clothing \$100 gift certificate	Alice Rodin, NC
Handmade Italian leather purse	Mary-Anne Kornbrust, SD



Medical Services Advisory Board for San Diego, the Asthma Coalition of the Lung Association and the Envision San Diego Health Care Task Force.

Exodus Recovery Opens North County Assessment Center in Vista

Exodus Recovery Center of Culver City California opened its long awaited Mental Health Walk In Assessment Center (WIAC) Tuesday, March 11th with a thank you celebration for the many organizations and individuals throughout San Diego County who have been "extremely helpful to us in getting the Center up and running". There were about 70 people present, which included the principals of the Los Angeles company as well as San Diego County officials of the Mental Health Department.

Alfredo Aguirre, Director of Mental Health Services, addressed the group and traced the history of the mental health delivery system from its beginnings in the City of San Diego to its outreach to North County's million plus inhabitants scattered over a tremendously large area. He conceded that it was time to locate more specialized services closer to those being served and that the Department was excited by the chance to locate such an innovative project, which will be hooked up to the San Diego Emergency Psychiatric Unit on Rosecrans by means of Telepsychiatry when necessary for specific diagnostic procedures.

Centrally sited in Melrose Plaza, the WIAC is just beside TriCity Hospital's Mental Health Outpatient Clinic and near bus, freeway and Sprinter transportation. Clients are warmly received by staff members and appreciate the comfortable surroundings. If there is a wait the soft, leather chairs make it a pleasurable experience. No hint of an Emergency Room here. Calmness and quietness prevails and is part of the treatment and recovery process. The hours are noon to 8P Monday through Friday. The doors are open to those that have MediCal or are uninsured.

Cutting Carbon: State refining strategy for slashing power plant emissions

By: DAVE DOWNEY – North County Times

California's top energy regulator wants utilities to be required to rely more heavily on energy efficiency pro-

grams and green power next decade to meet the ever-growing demand for electricity. Those efforts, as well as a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions, should be central to the state's emerging strategy to combat global warming, Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey said last week. But even as Peevey recommends more ambitious goals for slashing greenhouse gas emissions, the state's utilities are saying they may not be able to meet the existing goals.

Utilities, including San Diego Gas & Electric Co., and industry observers say California's existing deadline for converting 20 percent of the state's power to renewable energy by 2010 will probably pass unheeded.

"I think there will be some challenges in pulling that off," said Scott Anders, director of the Energy Policy Initiatives Center at the University of San Diego, of the 2010 target. "I don't think SDG&E is going to be able to meet that."

While Peevey's proposal answers questions about what the Public Utilities Commission wants the state's energy future to look like, it raises more about how the state's utilities are supposed to get there.

Peevey's 122-page proposal, released Feb. 8, is the Public Utilities Commission's response to the landmark 2006 state law that calls on California's industries and power plants to slash emissions of carbon dioxide 25 percent by 2020 ---- or in essence, to return to 1990 levels.

The California Air Resources Board has been given the task of enforcing the ambitious goals, and the agency is developing a road map for achieving them. A draft of that so-called "climate change scoping plan," which will outline a broad framework for writing specific rules later, is expected to be completed by the end of the year, a board spokesman said.

Peevey recommended that utilities be required to employ all efficiency strategies that are deemed to be "cost effective." He also proposed significantly increasing the state's target for requiring energy to be derived from clean, renewable sources, such as solar and wind power. Peevey did not, however, specify a new percentage or deadline. Further, Peevey suggested that whatever renewable targets the Air Resources Board settles on should also apply, for the first time, to municipal utilities.

Peevey also recommended that the state incorporate the electric industry into a so-called cap-and-trade program called for in the landmark 2006 law, while leaving natu-

ral gas providers out. Under the program, a market would be established for trading emissions credits. If a particular utility could not meet its reduction target, it would have the option of purchasing emission credits from other utilities, or perhaps from companies in other industries, that are finding it easier to comply. He said he wants utilities to be required to count emissions not only from California power plants but also out-of-state generators they buy power from.

Even today, Peevey stated, while imported power makes up just 20 percent of California's supply, it accounts for half of the electric industry's greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Air Resources Board, power generation is the source of a quarter of all California carbon emissions.

Spokeswoman Briscoe said the utility welcomed Peevey's call for "cost-effective" efficiency improvements, and noted the steps the utility has already taken to squeeze more electricity out of its existing generators and transmission grid. She said the company's efficiency programs should shave the San Diego region's electricity demand by 487 megawatts over the next 10 years. "That's like a power plant," she said. Briscoe said the area's demand is growing at the rate of 2 percent, or 100 megawatts, each year.

Anders, the energy center director, said requiring utilities to promote more efficiency -- in the way buildings are designed, air conditioners operate and appliances are made ---- has the potential to save a lot of power and significantly curb carbon emissions.

"Efficiency is the bedrock of any long-term energy planning in California," Anders said. "You get your cheapest megawatts by not using them."

Don Wood had the following comments on the above article:

SDG&E claims it needs Sunrise to bring renewable energy in from Imperial Valley. SDG&E has signed a CPUC approved contract with Stirling Energy for 600-900 MW of central solar plant energy and smaller contracts for geothermal energy from plants that might be built by the Salton Sea.

The operational word is "might"...

For example, Sterling proposes to build 3600 Sterling engine solar generators that would require huge amounts of real estate. Since Sterling has not convinced BLM to lease it any land, Sterling has been unable to line up fi-

ancing for its proposed project, and or begun the EIR process, which makes the whole project very iffy at this point in time.

I don't think the proposed Truckhaven geothermal plant that SDG&E has signed a contract for has locked in the land they intend to use yet. They are just sinking test wells at this point, and don't have any signed leases or proven reserves, and or an EIR in process.

The Independent Operator IOUs are signing a lot of renewable energy contracts, but the regulators have figured out that a lot of these contracts are falling through. It is trying to figure out how many of them to count toward the IOUs RPS goals.

I've read, SDG&E could use excess capacity on the existing Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) to import 300 MW of IV renewables once the company's contracts with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) are signed in 2012, and that SDG&E has admitted in hearings that it could meet its RPS standard for 2010 using SWPL.

Taking all this into account, the SDG&E assertion that Sunrise is needed for SDG&E to meet its 2010 RPS goals seems speculative at best.

SAVE THE DATE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN
DIEGO COUNTY
CALL TO CONVENTION

Continental breakfast, program, business meeting & lunch

Saturday, June 7, 2008

8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Pomerado Hospital Conference Room, 3rd floor
15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, CA 92064

"Health care in San Diego County"

The rich, the poor and the cracks in the system

Panelists: TBA

Media Award: TBA

\$15 reservation includes registration, breakfast and box lunch