

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: League of Women Voters San Diego
Re: Item-334 Accepting the Right to Know Committee's Recommendation
Date: February 1, 2005

Almost one year ago, the LWV came before you to promote a trial run of a new system for noticing and conducting closed session hearings. We had become alarmed at the growing practice of marginalizing the public through increased use of closed sessions to conduct city business.

In addition to urging the city council to develop improvements regarding adherence to the Brown Act, we also urged you to restore objective record-keeping in closed session meetings.

We are happy to be back today to join other good government advocates in support of the report recommendations of the Right to Know Committee.

We are particularly gratified to see recommendations for transcription of closed sessions by a court certified reporter and for retaining all transcripts. These actions would correct the serious problems we identified last March over the lack of objective record-keeping in closed session.

If the recommendations of the Right to Know Committee had been in force over the past decade and applied to other city boards and commissions as well, it is highly likely that we would not find ourselves in the legal and financial crisis that exists today. We hope to see unanimous council approval of these good-government measures.

Thank you.