



Escondido Area VOTER

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY, CENTRAL

JANUARY, 2006

LWV of Escondido Area

Serving the communities of Escondido, Fallbrook, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Ramona, San Marcos and Valley Center

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of every month.
All members welcome.

President:
JUNE RADY

Vice President/Administration:
DONNA OBA

Treasurer:
ARLENE MEADOWS

Membership:
MARIANNE MCGRATH

Education:
VIVIAN DOERING

Natural Resources:
YOLANDA FLEET
Asst.: GRACE SHAFFER

Health Issues:
LORRAINE BOYCE
Asst.: KATHLEEN CLOONAN

Voter Service:
PATRICK COONY
Asst.: VIRGINIA WOODS

Voter Editor:
MARGARET LILES

Honorary Director:
HELEN POLATCHEK

Director Emeritus in Perpetuity:
ELIZABETH KORNHAUSER
1908-1998, Escondido

League voicemail:
760 599-3211

SATURDAY

JANUARY 28, 2006:

**GENERAL MEETING:
PROGRAM PLANNING**

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**East Valley Community Center
2245 East Valley Parkway
Escondido**

Please bring your ideas and appetite to our brunch meeting



At our January Program Planning Meeting we will be planning our programs for the 2006-2007 year. Please join us. Share your ideas.

Suggested issues for emphasis for 2006-07:

- ◇ **Regional Airport Authority's Recommendation for Site, (Nov. 2006 Ballot.)**
- ◇ **Governor Schwarzenegger's \$222.6 billion "Strategic Growth" Bond Measure. (Nov. 2006 Ballot.)**
- ◇ **Escondido Union High School District Site Selection (& Possible Bond Measure) (Nov. 2006 Ballot.)**
- ◇ **New Palomar/Pomerado Hospital site selection**
- ◇ **Sewer System Proposal for Harmony Grove**

Feb. 11: Board Meeting: DPRA office
100 E. San Marcos Blvd., Ste.308, San Marcos.
9:30 AM to Noon

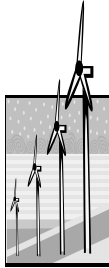
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued:

Saturday, February 25, 2006

**GENERAL MEETING
ENERGY STUDY UPDATE
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**



**East Valley Community Center
2245 East Valley Parkway
Escondido**

The enclosed COUNTY COLLAGE contains a summary of the energy update information compiled by the LWVC. OUR JOB WILL BE TO ANSWER THE CONCENSUS QUESTIONS ON PAGES 3 AND 4 OF THE COLLAGE. We hope you will add your thoughts to our discussion. The more members that participate, the more representative our consensus answers will be of our local League.

Mar. 11: Board Meeting

**Saturday, March 18, 2006
County League Day:
State of the County**

Bill Horn

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

**Grossmont Hospital District's Medical Library,
9:00 AM breakfast (speaker to follow)
\$12.00 per person**

**Saturday, March 25, 2006
Lunch With League
Bonnie Dumanis
County District Attorney**

**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Escondido Country Club
(speaker at 11:00, lunch at noon)
\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members**

**SEWER SYSTEM PROPOSAL FOR
"HARMONY GROVE VILLAGE"
DEVELOPMENT**

JUNE RADY, PRESIDENT

Discord in the Harmony Grove. Will the proposed 'Harmony Grove Village' project bring a sewer system to Harmony Grove? The project's developer, Santa Monica-based New Urban West (NUW), thinks so.

After first promoting its project as a 742 single-family detached home development on 468 acres using an on-site 'package sewer' system, we now find NUW before the Escondido City Council requesting hookup to the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility (HARRF). By a 4-1 vote in September 2005, the Escondido City Council approved a \$587,000 'capacity study' to consider the use of City sewer facilities by a project that lies completely outside of not only the City's limits, but also outside of its 'sphere of influence.'

Approximately two years ago, the community asked that the project area be removed from the City's sphere, thereby placing the project 100 percent under the jurisdiction of the county of San Diego. This 'de-sphering' was approved by the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO is a regulatory agency with countywide jurisdiction to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the orderly formation and development of local government agencies essential to the social, fiscal, and economic well being of the state.

The current proposal to establish a 'sewer maintenance district' in the county and connect to the City's sewer system is not only a shameful 'end run' around the wishes of Harmony Grove residents to retain the rural character of their community – it is also of questionable legality under Government Code § 56133, which prohibits a local agency from providing sewer services outside of its jurisdictional boundary.

On December 5, 2005, LAFCO held a public hearing to consider NUW's request. The League of Women Voters of San Diego County (ILO) submitted a letter to the Commission expressing our support of LAFCO's continuing oversight, and stating our strong opposition to approval of the County and NUW's precedent-setting request to contract with the City of Escondido for sewer treatment capacity.

In a stunning turn of events, NUW appeared before the Commission and announced the withdrawal of its request to enter into a contractual sewer service agreement with the City of Escondido and would, instead, return to its original plan of constructing its own self-contained sewage treatment package plant.

Nonetheless, the Commission instructed LAFCO staff to return on February 6, 2006 with a legal discussion of Government Code § 56133 and §56434. This hearing is crucial because its outcome will determine whether the Commission agrees with the need for LAFCO purview over future requests by developers for contractual sewer service agreements.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Since July we've gained six new members:

- Patricia Baker**, Fallbrook
- Jim and Mary Cauhape**, San Diego
- Elizabeth Gabrych**, Escondido
- Dorothy P. Gluck**, Escondido
- Pamela Hammond**, Escondido
- Mary Kao**, Fallbrook
- Lois Lindsey**, Escondido
- Beth Meehan**, Escondido

Welcome to you all. We look forward to meeting you.

**LWVC ACTION ALERT:
SUPPORT AB 583:**

AB 583, has successfully passed out of the Assembly Election Committee on January 10, 2006. This bill establishes the **California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006**, a voluntary system for public financing of political campaigns for all legislative and statewide elective offices. Candidates who show a broad base of support by collecting a specified number of \$5 "qualifying contributions" and agree to spending limits would use only public funds for their campaigns. A Clean Money candidate who is outspent by a nonparticipating opponent or is targeted by independent expenditures can receive additional funding up to a specified maximum.

Thanks to the many local members who called Assemblyman Mark Wyland to encourage him to vote for the bill in Committee. He voted against the bill. Please call or write to your Assemblyman and State Senator to encourage support for this bill. For more information go to the LWVC website: www.ca.lwv.org.

ESCONDIDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EUHSD) SITE SELECTION:

At the December 10, 2005, LWV Escondido Area Board meeting, the Board discussed the ongoing controversy of the EUHSD Board of Trustees' search for a site for a comprehensive high school campus. Our Board expressed concern about the EUHSD's Board's focus on a large comprehensive school rather than one or more small schools. We are also concerned about loss of sensitive habitat to such a large campus. Our Board considered writing a letter to the EUHSD Board of Trustees expressing our concerns. **What do you think? Please share your thoughts on this matter with us at our upcoming Program Planning Meeting on January 28.**

OBSERVERS NEEDED

We need members to attend various meetings – city council, school board, planning commission, etc. You don't speak. As a local, public observer, you watch and listen and report. Observers help safeguard a fair and open political process. If you can help at least occasionally, call Donna at **(760)751-1595** or email donnaoba@aol.com

PUBLIC HOSPITAL FUNDS FOR ROADS?

Our League's Board is also concerned about another local controversy—the new Palomar Hospital. Where will it be? Is the Escondido Regional Technology Center (ERTC) the optimum site? How much money is being lost (in financing costs, increasing cost of materials, etc.) while the Hospital Board and the Escondido City Council debate the issue? Is it proper to use hospital bond funds for road construction? **Again, we'd like to hear from you. Please join us at the Jan. 28, Program Planning meeting if you are able.**



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please renew your dues on time. Sending out second notices takes a significant bite out of our Local League's funds. Thank You!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE:

Your League has served your community well, but can't do it for free! You can make your **tax-deductible donation to LWV Education Fund** and send it to:
**League of Women Voters,
P.O. Box 921, Escondido, CA 92033**