October 10, 2011 – 100 Year Anniversary of California Women’s Right to Vote

By Northern & Central League of Women Voters

Before women had the right to vote in the United States, California women achieved that goal. When Proposition 8 passed in a special election on the October 10, 1911, this state’s women won that right. California was the sixth state to grant women suffrage. The suffragists used innovative methods and modern campaign techniques. They held mass meetings, sponsored automobile tours, developed street speaking expertise, utilized the press, billboards, campaign buttons, leaflets, pennants, and even grocery bags to keep their cause before the voting public. The strategy was not to be argumentative but to “put forth positive arguments of a hopeful, constructive sort” and to appeal to rural voters. The press secretary for the College League wrote: “The women of California appeal to the fair-minded, clean-souled men of California to help women defeat the vicious elements of the slums of the larger California cities on October tenth”. The amendment carried by 3,587 votes out of 246,487, an average of one vote in every precinct in the state, which clearly illustrates the importance of each vote.*

Let’s Work to Make 2012 Better

By John Cordes, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

2011 was a difficult year to do endorsements for the city council and other local races in the Loma Prieta Chapter. This was our lowest number of endorsements in probably the last 10 years. The candidates were generally less focused on protecting the environment and the number of volunteers was dramatically lower than normal. The Loma Prieta chapter conducted endorsement interviews in only 5 cities this summer; Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Redwood City, San Carlos and Belmont. We made endorsements in only 4 of those cities. In the other races, none of the candidates earned our endorsement. There were requests for us to do interviews in more cities, but very low volunteer turnout prevented it. This limited our ability to do the races we have done in the past. There were many city council races that did not have endorsement teams. In 2009, PollCom volunteers completed endorsements in 13 local races vs. 5 in 2011. We did not have any endorsement interviews in Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, South San Francisco, Granada Sanitary District and Central Coast Water District. Some of these cities did not have competitive races, but mostly, we didn’t conduct interviews because of a lack of volunteers.

I hope the low volunteer turnout is a symptom of the current political and economic situation. It is easy to understand that volunteers were not excited about helping interview and endorse candidates this year considering how angry and frustrated so many of us are with politicians and politics this year. It has been a long recession/depression and it probably won’t get much better anytime soon. That said, let’s hope that people’s enthusiasm and energy turn around in 2012. There will be more city council races as well as county, state and national races in 2012.

In addition to low volunteer turnout, there was a lower environmental focus by many candidates this election. Many candidates are making budgets and jobs their highest priority for campaigning this year. Anything which might hurt jobs is a no-no for some candidates. This is part of the reason why after conducting interviews in Redwood City, we ultimately decided not to endorse any of the candidates.

Looking forward to 2012, it will be an exciting year. There will be presidential, state and county elections in addition to many city councils. We hope many of our prior volunteers choose to help us do endorsements again and we gather some new volunteers as well. So 2011 endorsements are over and done. Thank you to the stalwart volunteers who helped out in 2011. Let’s make 2012 a better year for the protecting the environment and us.

San Mateo County

Belmont

Christine Wozniak

For City Council

By Gladwyn d’Souza, Chair, Transportation Committee and Chair, Belmont/San Carlos Group

We have been extremely pleased with Christine Wozniak’s first term on council. She has championed Sierra Club zero waste, open space, and walkable city issues for a low green house gas city. She also helped tier garbage rates in Belmont. The first tier in city to do so, improving all other cities in the regional contract. Endorsed by the Club in 2007, incumbent Christine Wozniak has shown consistent support for sustainable land-use planning, with a focus on bringing more jobs to the Downtown.

Dave Warden

For City Clerk

By Gladwyn d’Souza

Dave Warden wants to reduce the clerk’s office by $100,000, money which could be used by Council to hire a sustainability or bike pedestrian coordinator, by making the position voluntary, similar to Belmont’s elected Treasurer. He also wants to reduce waste primarily by going to electronic documents. Given tight city finances and declining revenue streams the city has not been able to staff for a green agenda. We endorsed Dave in 2009 – he has two more years on Council. He is vice-mayor. We are pleased that he has helped pass the Green Advisory Committee recommendation through Council. While sorry to see him leave the council, we thought Dave Warden was presenting the San Carlos Belmont Sierra Club Group with an opportunity to advocate for a green position if he follows through and reduces the office of City Clerk.

Redwood City

By The Loma Prieta Political Team

There are 5 candidates running for 4 seats on the Redwood City council this fall. The Sierra Club interviewed the four incumbents (the fifth candidate declined to participate).

We feel that the city is doing some very good things for the environment and acknowledge Redwood City’s leadership in water and energy conservation. However, none of the candidates demonstrated the level of leadership on environmental issues and community engagement that we feel is needed to ensure other aspects of our natural environment will get the attention they deserve.

In 2010 Redwood City adopted a general plan that provides a road map for accommodating growth that will be greatly supported by the Downtown Precise Plan. These two planning documents provide the foundation for creating a livable, economically vibrant city that leverages its location along the Caltrain line. Implementing this vision over the next 25 years will require strong leadership on the part of the council to inspire and engage residents to support the coming changes in their community.

San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

General Endorsement Election Issue 2011

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

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Endorsements

Unfortunately, in 2009 the council removed the Caggill property from the general plan update process thereby shutting down the only neutral venue for public discussion of this site. The Sierra Club strongly supports restoration of the salt ponds as a smart, economically prudent approach to dealing with sea level rise. Restoration will also provide important habitat for endangered species and open space all residents and visitors can enjoy.

In addition to the largest bayfront on the Peninsula Redwood City is home to several creeks and the lagoons of Redwood Shores. There are currently 133 acres of parks for over 75,000 people. This is clearly not enough. The planned population growth will require that the city have access to open space for exercise and peace of mind.

The Sierra Club has 800 members in Redwood City, we are ready to work with the city council to help them provide the same leadership they have with energy and water to the protection and enhancement of our natural features.

San Carlos

Re-Elect Randy Joyce for Council

By Ann Schneider

During Councilman Joyce’s first term in office he worked on the new recycling contract with Recology which added foodwaste collection and to include some hazardous waste collection programs. While the council did approve a green building ordinance last year, he believes that upon its return for the first year review, that the ordinance should be made stronger.

If re-elected he would work to address quality issues including reducing pollution entering streams and the bay, implementing bans on polystyrene and single use bag bans, solar development and LED street light replacement. He would also like to expand San Carlos hiking trails. The Sierra Club appreciates Mr. Royce’s votes for the environment and has high expectations for his environmental leadership in his second term. Councilman Joyce would appreciate your vote.

Vote for Wang and Sinks in Cupertino

By Gary Latshaw & John Cordes

There are 6 candidates running for the 2 open seats on the Cupertino City Council this fall. The Sierra Club has chosen to endorse Gilbert Wong and Rod Sinks, local environmental activists. Gilbert Wong was endorsed by the Sierra Club in 2007 and he delivered on his commitments to energy conservation and the environment. He successfully promoted the upgrade of our Cupertino street lights to more energy efficient ones. He voted for the installation of electric car charging stations at City Hall. He has demonstrated an appreciation for the outdoors by supporting the preservation of McCullan Ranch and Stocklinemeier Property, and a bike/pedestrian access to Blackberry Farm from the west. Gilbert would like to see higher density housing along our major transit corridors and improve public transit along those corridors. He understands the need for more public education on how to successfully implement higher density without changing the nature of existing neighborhoods or adversely affecting the schools. Gilbert is committed to maintaining a clean environment and would support viable efforts to reduce Lehigh Cement plant pollution. He sees water conservation as important for the city and the bay area. He advocates assistance to more efficient water uses. If re-elected, Gilbert will continue to champion environmental causes in the Capertino. For more about Gilbert go to: http://gilbertwong.org/

Rod Sink is an environmental activist and this is his first time running for office. Rod is focused on three policies: Pushing for Lehigh Cement to comply with environmental requirememts by compelling the regulatory agencies to do their job, encourage smart growth in Cupertino, and increase cooperation between Cupertino and local schools to reduce traffic jams around the schools. Rod Sink is a founder of Bay Area Clean Environment (BACE), which is currently struggling with another quality violation. He is a successful entrepreneur who understands and supports the use of technology to reduce energy consumption and will use that insight to make the city facilities more energy efficient. Rod is very supportive of getting children outdoors and he has led youth programs as a Scouter and YMCA father-daughter leader. He understands the need for smart growth and realizes the challenges in building consensus for smart growth was judged to be an articulate, enthusiastic and committed individual who can turn objectives into accomplishments. For more about Rod, go to http://rodSinkis.com/

SUNTARA

For a Greener Sunnyvale

Vote Tara Martin-Milius for Seat 7 and Jack Walker for Seat 6

By Diane Glasion, Team Leader, Sunnyvale Endorsement Team

The Sunnyvale interview team voted to endorse Tara Martin-Milius for city council seat 7 and Jack Walker for seat 6. Tara has been a Master Gardener, a volunteer for the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Global Community and also for Acterra. She is a leader in her Sunnyvale neighborhood (St. Michael Neighbor Association), promoting composting and organic gardening activities, and managing five-cycling stations. Tara is a Recycle, Re-use, Re-purpose activist. Tara believes that major environmental issues facing Sunnyvale include water, energy, and waste-stream management. She is knowledgeable and committed to continue to do her part and would like to see Sunnyvale move more aggressively in the direction of reducing our carbon footprint. She recognizes that being green has a lower payback but the economies are there in the long run to support it. Her website is: www.TaraForCouncil.org/
Sierra Club California Announces New Director

By Kathryn Phillips, Director Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California welcomes a new director, Dorothy Phillips, to lead lobbying and regulatory advocacy in Sacramento. Dorothy Phillips will begin her new role with us on Monday, August 22. Kathryn is leaving the organization to focus on environmental policy advocacy in the California State Capitol.

Kathryn, who has been based in Sacramento for the last ten years, has directed transportation and air pollution work in California for Environmental Defense Fund, and has worked on both state and federal transportation policy. She has also had experience in agriculture and water policy. Before joining EDF, she worked for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Policy, and before that, was a Senior Staff Attorney at NRDC.

Kathryn’s leadership has been instrumental in many Sierra Club California member-volunteer efforts to create a clean, healthy, and efficient transportation system. She has also been a strong voice for environmental justice, and has been a leader in the movement to protect California’s air quality, climate and natural resources.

“I am excited to continue the work of advocating for a clean, healthy, and efficient transportation system in California,” said Executive Committee Chairman Andy Katz. “Kathryn’s experience and enthusiasm will be instrumental in supporting Sierra Club California’s mission to protect the environment for all Californians.”

In the last six weeks of the session, the legislature passed bills that would help fund transit, increase energy efficiency, and increase the amount of renewable energy procured by the state. These bills were all signed by the Governor.

Sadly, the legislature also passed a series of bills that would weaken environmental protections. The two worst of which include SB 292 and AB 900. The most troubling aspect of those bills included allowing large-scale development projects to bypass a step in the process court if their environmental impact reports are challenged. Additionally, the legislature passed a bill (AB 628) that threatens to increase off-highway vehicle traffic in natural areas.

As of this writing on September 29, the governor has vetoed the two bills and signed the troubling environmental review bills. If this was baseball, we’d say we—or rather he—struck out.

The governor has until October 9 to take action on the balance of the bills on his desk. To find out how we fare on those bills, check into the governor’s website: http://www.gov.ca.gov. You can find the updates on bill signings by following the newsmail tab to the press release area.

Early Endorsements for 2012 start this November

By Ann Schneider

Would you believe that the Political Committee is already lining up volunteers to meet with our US Congressional delegates and influence the candidates running for these elected officials and will try to meet with them as soon as we can see the teams. If you would like to be a part of this process, contact John Cordes or Ann Schneider. We need you and it fun.
Sunlight: $0; Solar Panels: Also $0: Saving the Planet Priceless

By Gary Latshaw Solarpowered Homewower & Ears Barrite, L.P. Editorial Board

It used to be that getting solar panels on your home involved extensive research, hunts for rebates, permits, and $20,000. And after that you were responsible for maintaining the system and fixing it if it broke. Sunoo 2009

Now, residential solar companies offer a “solar service.” The company installs the panels at reduced or no upfront cost and handles all of the maintenance and service. The homeowner leases the equipment at a monthly payment independent of electricity rates. It’s good for the environment and good for the customer.

But now it can be good for the environment, good for the customer, and good for the Chap-
ter and the Sierra Club. Through an innovative partnership with Sungevity, a solar service provider founded by ex-Greenpeace campaigner Danny Kennedy, Chapter members and sup-
porters can avail themselves of this affordable way to get solar on their rooftops, and Sun-
gevity will give $1000 to the Chapter and the Club’s clean energy campaigns for every home that goes solar.

Over 100 Sierra Club members throughout California have gone solar through the Solar Finance Campaign since May of 2011. One member who recently became a solar convert, Dan from Oakland says, “We never thought we could afford to go solar. But now we’re get-
ting almost all our power from our Sungevity solar panels.” And Marika from Half Moon Bay says “Going solar was not only easy and good for the planet, but I started saving money right away!”

“In order to end our dependence on dirty en-
vironment, we need as many Americans as possible to switch to clean energy like rooftop solar,” says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

This is a high priority for the Sierra Club. We are urging all of our members and supporters in Northern California to work with Sungevity to find out if solar is right for them. Every home that gets solar gets us one step closer to our goal of a clean energy economy.” The Chapter’s Green Buildings for Cool Cities campaign is one of its top priorities.

Click on sierraclub.org/solar/lomaprieta to get a “Solar iQuote” for solar service on your own home. The Bay Area has long been an incubator of innovative programs and solutions. Because of this, the Club is trying out this program here. If this pilot is a success, the Club will expand the program to get solar energy deployed onto rooftops across the country.

Thx for Sungevity’s solar service has these good results:

• You’ll save money: the average Sungevity cus-
tomer saves 15% on electricity.

Yes! I want to support the work of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club for sustainable living, a healthy environment, improved transportation, and a green Bay Area future!

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ___________________________
State:  ____________ Zip: _______________
Phone: (____) ________________________
E-mail: ____________________________

Donation Levels:
Coast Champion — $5,000+
Forest Guardian — $2,500-$4,999
Wetland Protector — $1,000-$2,499
Grassland Supporter — $500-$999
Other: — $___________

For credit card contributions: lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/donate.asp

Loma Prieta

The Chapter would like to give a big thanks to Bill Magavern for his 11 years of service as Lobbyist and Director of Sierra Club California. Bill was a huge advocate for the environment and considered one of the most effective lobbyists in Sacramento. Bill covered a very wide range of environmental issues from green chemistry (now law in California) to recycling. Bill was a steady voice on the huge range of environmental issues. He always brought a good sense of humor that was much appreciated during long meetings. Bill also pro-
vided guidance to our Chapter’s Political Committee, sometimes in great detail, during the process of终身 看一些立法者的主要选区。Bill 失去了选举，和他的家人，他对一次严重的健康问题也感到痛苦。Bill, we wish you luck and health. We are grateful for your service, and wish you well in your future endeavors.

Goodbye and Thanks to Outgoing Director Bill Magavern

By Ann Schneider

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The end of the line

"An award-winning, apocalyptic, powerful documentary... beautiful and haunting ... Imagine a world without fish”

October 15, Saturday
2.15 pm to 5.00 pm
Redwood Shores Library
339 Marina Parkway
No Charge. RSVP at 650-444-0259 or sue204@gmail.com

Being sure to share your Loma Prieta
—Reuse then Recycle

The Loma Prieta — Reuse then Recycle

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For credit card contributions: lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/donate.asp

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