



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters Beach Cities
Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

LWVBC OPPOSES OIL DRILLING IN HERMOSA BEACH

At the June 24, 2014 League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities Board meeting, the Board voted to take a position against the Hermosa Beach Oil Drilling project. Led by Kathy Berlin, the Board reviewed the history of the project and League national, state and county positions on the environment that might enable us to take such a position against the proposed project.

Relevant League of Women Voters environmental positions include the following statements:

- The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County Natural Resources – Land Use position adopted in 2006 calls for “strong, enforceable environmental protections.”
- The League of Women Voters of California State position on offshore oil/gas exploration, development and production action states, “The potential loss of other uses due to oil development or oil spill damage is real. Some areas must be deleted from development consideration because they are areas of biological, recreation, environmental or economic importance, or because they are in hazard zones.” As well, the position notes, “Our coastal resources must not be sacrificed to short-sighted energy policies and short-term economic gain... Also, development should occur within the framework of state and national energy policies that stress the increasing use of conservation and renewable energy sources and a decreasing reliance on fossil fuels.”
- The National League of Women Voters land use position calls for special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, natural hazards, historical importance and aesthetic value.../with/ special attention to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of urban communities.” “The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment.” Under Land Use, the League supports “fragile or historical lands, where development could result in irreversible damage (such as shore-lands of rivers, lakes and streams, estuaries and bays; rare or valuable ecosystems and geological formations; significant wildlife habitats; unique scenic or historic areas; wetlands; deserts.”

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The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

The Beach Voter	
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To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$55.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name _____
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Considering these League positions, the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) commissioned by the Hermosa Beach City Council provides a strong motivation for our opposition to the proposed Hermosa Beach Oil Project. For example, the EIR states, “The Proposed Oil Project would generate potentially significant and unavoidable environmental impacts in the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biology
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Noise
- Recreation
- Safety and Risk of Upset”

Under Land Use, the EIR notes, “The drilling, construction, and potential future operations would be in close proximity to land uses zoned as open space (parks, baseball fields and the Greenbelt) and residential. Proposed Oil Project activities during all phases may generate significant noise, odor and visual impacts that would be incompatible with these adjacent land uses. Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce these impacts in the respective issue areas, but impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.” As well, the EIR points out under Recreation “During a rain event, a potential oil spill from the oil pipeline along Valley Drive or at the intersection of Valley Drive and Herondo Street could drain directly into storm drains and flow to the ocean. Even without rains, the capacity of the storm drains is such that an oil spill could still reach the ocean, depending on the arrangement of sand at the mouth of the ocean discharge. An oil spill along the coastline could affect beach areas, leading to beach closures and boating restrictions in contaminated areas during and potentially after cleanup. Public perception of the recreational quality of the areas beaches (Hermosa, Manhattan, Redondo, etc) could also be affected, causing a reduction in beach recreational activities for a substantial period of time. Mitigation measures ... would further reduce the frequency and severity of an oil spill reaching the ocean, but impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Based on a careful reading of the final Environmental Impact Report certified by the Hermosa Beach Planning Commission on June 23, 2014 and by the City Council on July 8, 2014, and on existing League of Women Voters Los Angeles County, State of California and National environmental positions, the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities takes a position in opposition to the proposed Hermosa Beach Oil Drilling Project and recommends a “no” vote on the proposed oil drilling project on the ballot measure which is scheduled to appear on a March 3, 2015 ballot.

Joan Arias

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Officers for the 2014-2015 year were elected at the 46th annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities, held on May 31, 2014. Congratulations to the following members:

President:	Barbara Arlow
First Vice President:	Jan Nathanson
Second Vice President:	Ruth Hart
Third Vice President:	Margaret Thelen
Secretary:	Joan Arias
Treasurer:	Susan Grebe
Directors (two year term):	Harriet Chase June Eicker Henrietta Mosley
Director (one year term):	Marilyn Altamura

Kudos to this year's Nominating Committee, led by Chair Ann Martin, for producing an excellent slate of candidates. Other members of the committee were Peggy Bartlett, Joann Kennelly, Susan Grebe, and Margaret Thelen. Ann Martin was elected to serve as Chair of next year's Nominating Committee, along with Peggy Barlett and Mignon Thiem-Murphy. The Board will add two members of the current Board of Directors to the Nominating Committee at a later date.

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Tri-League Kickoff Meeting will be held at the Depot Restaurant in Torrance on Saturday, September 20th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Watch for further details on the speaker and the cost. This is a joint meeting with League members from the Beach Cities, Torrance Area, and Palos Verdes Peninsula chapters.

VOTER SERVICE

Beach Cities will be registering voters on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday September 23rd, and at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair on Saturday October 4th and Sunday October 5th. We will be presenting the pros and cons of the November ballot measures throughout the month of October. If you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau, there will be a ballot measure training session on September 27th. Please contact Barbara Arlow at gerbar92@msn.com or [\(310\) 379-6663](tel:(310)379-6663) for more information and to volunteer.

SUMMARY OF WARM WEATHER CONDITIONS

(from an article in the LA Times on July 22)

The first six months of 2014 were the hottest January through June on record in California according to the National Weather Service – nearly 5 degrees warmer than the 20th century average and more than a degree hotter than the record set in 1934. Across the state, the dry and hot conditions have been contributing to the eruption of more fires than usual. The difference is particularly obvious in places that are normally known for green landscapes.

Stuart Seto, a weather specialist for the National Weather Service in Oxnard said the last two years have been the driest on record for downtown Los Angeles, with less than 12 inches of rain total. An average year has about fifteen inches. The months of May and June 2014 were actually the warmest on record for planet Earth according to Seto. And until June, every month this year has been significantly hotter than normal in L.A. June's temperatures ended up about average and of late, we have even had some rain. However, we still are suffering from the drought and need to conserve water as much as we can.

Maggie Wilkinson

SUMMER LEAGUE DAY (POPOVERS IN PASADENA)

(excerpted from the August/September L.A. County *Voter*)

Summer League Day in Pasadena was terrific. 70 people participated in the day – thanks for coming. Evaluation forms reflected high ratings. People liked their workshops, thought lunch was tasty – including the traditional popovers, of course - and enjoyed our speaker. Thanks to our excellent workshop presenters: Marna Cornell, Fatima Malik, and Efrain Escobedo and Phil T from the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk's Office. We tried a drop-in session for presidents and treasurers with Dorothy Stewart, Tom Carson, and me. Not too many dropped in, but we had some good discussions among our few attendees.

Of course, thanks to Professor Jessica Levinson for an informative presentation. She traced the developments of money in politics, including the Citizens United decision. She noted that there are tools that can be used to control the influence of money: donation limits, expense limits, public finance, and disclosure. She stated that dark money is key to current election influence.

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Subject	Place
Monday September 8 th	7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Home of Susan Grebe 629 19 th Street Manhattan Beach
Saturday September 20 th	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Tri-League Meeting	Depot Restaurant Torrance
Tuesday September 23 rd	-	National Voter Registration Day	-
Saturday September 27 th	9:30 a.m. - noon	Fall County League Day: Ballot Measure Training, Advocacy Workshop	Hollenbeck Park Los Angeles
Saturday and Sunday October 4 th -5 th	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair (Voter Registration)	Live Oak Park Manhattan Beach



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