

# Conservation Voter

March 2006

## LALCV Endorsements for April Elections

### LALCV Endorses Bonnie Lowenthal for Long Beach City Council



Long Beach voters will get to cast their vote for Bonnie Lowenthal in her reelection to the City Council's First District on Tuesday, April 11. LALCV is a proud endorser of Lowenthal. This public servant with an environmental zeal is widely admired for sponsoring a number of legislative initiatives to push Long Beach toward becoming a "greener" city. She focuses her attention on clean air, a

stable water supply and sustainable practices for developers and the transportation industry.

Lowenthal testified at recent CARB, SCAQMD, and Goods Movement public hearings regarding the need for the entire goods movement industry to address, in a meaningful way, air quality issues that affect the entire region. As a member of the City's 710 Oversight Committee, Lowenthal has kept her eye on the proposed expansion of the I-710 freeway, designed to make the freeway safer for both truckers and commuters, while providing environmental mitigations for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Lowenthal is also a member of the City's

Tidelands and Harbor Committee. She sponsored a City Council resolution to support Senator Alan Lowenthal's Clean Air bills, promoted Cold Ironing as a method of reducing air pollution at the port, and is pushing the Port to develop more on-dock rail to decrease the need for trucks. As a member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Lowenthal is promoting sustainable practices at that agency. Lowenthal was also recently appointed to the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Mobile Source Reduction Committee by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Lowenthal has sponsored municipal regulations to require the City of Long Beach to develop a construction/demolition recycling ordinance, use alternative fuels and/or hybrids in their fleets, and require waste haulers to only use clean burning fuels in their trash trucks. She recently proposed, and the City Council adopted, a request for a report on how the City might be able to take advantage of the incentives created by State of California Solar Initiative, designed to help move California closer to the Federal "Million-Solar-Roofs" goal by installing and developing 3,000 megawatts of solar energy on homes, businesses and public buildings over the next eleven years.



## April 11

### Culver City's Silbiger Gets Nod from LALCV

Gary Silbiger, Culver City Council Member and the LALCV's endorsed candidate for the April 11 Culver City election, has been actively protecting our environment. He led the way for reducing water pollution in the Ballona Creek and is seeking a greater local commitment toward beautifying the Creek while making it a recreational paradise.

As Culver City's representative to the Exposition Light Rail Construction Authority, Council Member Silbiger helped steer the vote for the Environmental Impact Report to passage and raised the idea of Culver City sponsoring a series of events, beginning March 2006, to both inform and activate the public about the benefits of light rail. When the Culver City Council majority voted to remove Culver City from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Gary stood fast in supporting our newest state park. Gary has opposed the both Playa Vista Phase II and LAX expansion, both to protect his City and to promote a great environmental vision for its residents and neighbors.

Gary's goals for his next four years on the Council include the institutionalization of a Green Building Design for Culver City, an increase in the housing stock, including affordable housing for the expensive Westside area, the approval of the Expo Light Rail line to Santa Monica, and the banning of smoking in Culver City parks.

LALCV is proud to endorse Gary Silbiger and we encourage you to support him, too. You can reach his campaign at (310) 358-3337, P.O. Box 1254, Culver City, California 90232, and at his website, [www.garyforculvercity.org](http://www.garyforculvercity.org).



*(See Endorsements page 2)*

# The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

(Endorsements cont'd from page 1)

## Board Endorses Plambeck for Santa Clarita City Council



At its March 6th meeting, the LALCV Board of Directors approved the endorsement of Lynne Plambeck for a seat on the Santa Clarita City Council.

"We are pleased to support Lynne Plambeck in her race for a Council seat in Santa Clarita," announced LALCV president Andi Liebenbaum. "Lynne has a strong environmental record and a reputation for standing up for what she believes in. We're certain she will bring thoughtful and valuable solutions to the environmental problems facing Santa Clarita."

Lynne is running for a council seat because of what she sees as the numerous problems resulting from unrestrained growth in her community. As Lynne points out, "This rapid growth has caused increased air pollution that is in turn increasing asthma rates. Building has been allowed in the flood plain of the Santa Clara River, severely impacting the river and its habitat. Local water supply is exhausted and all future water must be supplied from Northern California."

A 30-year resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, Lynne has a bachelor's degree from California State University at Northridge and is a small business owner. She is in her third term as an elected Board Member of the Newhall County Water District, a Board member of the Friends of the Santa Clarita River, President of the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE), and has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1985.

As a member of the Santa Clarita City Council, Lynne vows to establish a watershed council to promote protection and acquisition funds for the Santa Clara River, to promote and support a local clean money ordinance, to enforce the city's current oak tree and hillside and ridgeline ordinances, to establish and air pollution task force to work with County, State, and federal officials to address air pollution problems, and to publicly support the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which has sometimes been ignored by members of the present council.

"I am running for council to promote smart growth and sustainability, protection of the Santa Clara River, and better adherence to environmental laws," she states. "I want to make a difference in our Valley."

## LALCV Endorses Gerrie Schipske in Long Beach's 5th District Race

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is proud to announce its endorsement of long time community activist Gerrie Schipske in the race for the Long Beach City Council's 5th District. As a result of many years trying to undo a stagnant status quo, Ms. Schipske has developed a number of very specific plans for dealing with a range of environmental issues that the City currently faces. Among her ideas are the following:



- ❖ She has called for the creation of a comprehensive City-wide plan to ensure the preservation of open space;
- ❖ She wants to develop a plan for optimizing flights into and out of Long Beach Airport in order to decrease noise and air pollution;
- ❖ She wants to enact a moratorium on the elimination of existing parklands.

Schipske is in full agreement with the local environmental community on a number of issues including the Port of Long Beach, perched groundwater tables, and surface paving, all of which need City Council attention. Also, Schipske intends to make Long Beach a "National Tree City." To achieve this goal, she is calling for the creation of a full-time city arborist.

On the City Council, Schipske seeks to coordinate the City's overall environmental message and outreach, which she feels is not well crafted. Right now, Schipske says the City talks about issues pertaining to the health of the residents and others relating to pollution and aesthetics as if they had nothing in common. The messages should be the same, says Schipske, and she intends to link them so that residents understand that health and the environment are intertwined, not two separate issues. Ms. Schipske is an attorney as well as a nurse practitioner and has a special interest in and knowledge of public health issues, particularly those that relate to air quality.

VOTE  
April 11th

## Board of Directors of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

David Allgood (Secretary)	John Fentis L. Lloys Frates	Andi Liebenbaum (President)	Anthony Rendon Susana Reyes (Vice President)	Mitchell Schwartz Ericka Smith Moe Stavnezer (Treasurer)	Marc Stirdivant Effie Turnbull Cara Vallier Lee Wallach
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# LALCV at Work in Your Communities

## NEW ... LA Coalition on the Environment

The election of Antonio Villaraigosa was a momentous win for the environment. Running on a platform to “transform Los Angeles into the cleanest, greenest big city in America,” Mayor Villaraigosa has already made great strides. Some early accomplishments include:

- ❖ More electricity from renewables. At the mayor’s direction, the City of Los Angeles slashed seven years off the Hahn Administration’s projections by vowing to meet a full 20% of the city’s electricity needs from renewable resources by 2010.
- ❖ A cleaner airport. The mayor settled a lawsuit at LAX, setting limits on air traffic and establishing a community benefits agreement that will reduce air pollution as well as protect local communities.
- ❖ Less polluting port. The heart of LA’s burgeoning economy, the Port in San Pedro is being transformed by the mayor’s new environmentally-savvy commissioners—including LALCV honoree S. David Freeman.
- ❖ Improved public transportation. The Villaraigosa administration recently completed the Orange Line and expanded service on the Gold Line.

The environmental community’s honeymoon with Mayor Villaraigosa is alive and well. A new citywide caucus of seventy environmental organizations has come together to help the

mayor achieve his ambitious environmental initiatives. Called the **Los Angeles Working Group on the Environment (LAWGE)**, the coalition was convened by the Liberty Hill Foundation and Environment Now.

The League has played a mayor role in the coalition. LALCV board members participate in the coalition, including Bob Blumenfield, Marc Stirdivant, Lee Wallach and Jonathan Parfrey.

Working groups are currently drafting policy recommendations for the mayor. Among them are ways to:

- ❖ Plant a million trees to green LA.
- ❖ Build new solar and geothermal power plants in the desert.
- ❖ Capture rainfall to improve LA’s watershed and decrease dependence on Bay-Delta water.
- ❖ Make LA’s drinking water the safest in the nation.
- ❖ Increase enforcement of environmental justice violations.

In the mayor’s Green Plan, he boasts “I’m proud to have been endorsed by the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. I look forward to working with them as Mayor to build a greener LA.”

Through the new LAWGE coalition, the League is keeping faith with the mayor to together build a greener LA. For more information please contact [jonathan@lalcv.org](mailto:jonathan@lalcv.org).

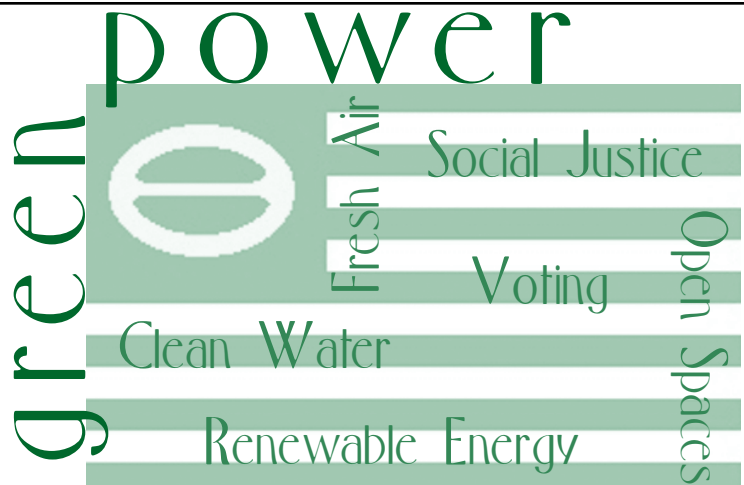
*Please join us for LALCV’s annual Smith-Weiss Environmental Champion Awards. Each year, we award public servants and community activists who champion environmental protection and conservation.*

This year we celebrate **Green Power** in honor of the officials and activists who demonstrate leadership and advocacy through environmental policies and initiatives. **Green Power** is about the people we honor, and it’s also about the issues we care about... clean energy, fuel efficiency, healthful air, a reliable water supply and many more. **Green Power** is also about helping LALCV support “green” candidates, and **Green Power** is, of course, about the importance of reliable income sources to achieve our ends. In other words, **Green Power** is about people, issues and money.

**At this year’s Smith-Weiss Environmental Champion Awards, we honor Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza, S. David Freeman and Mary Nichols for public service, and TreePeople for their decades of community action. Please mark your calendars and buy your tickets!**

In addition to buying a ticket to celebrate **Green Power**, consider a sponsorship. **Green Power** sponsorships range from \$250 to \$5,000. There will also be a silent auction where you can bid on fantastic items. (If you would like to donate a product or service to the auction, please contact Joan Satt at [jsrecycle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsrecycle@sbcglobal.net).)

For questions, opportunities to sponsor and buy tickets, or get additional information about **Green Power**, please email us at [GreenPower@lalcv.org](mailto:GreenPower@lalcv.org) or contact contact Mitchell Schwartz at 323-934-1933 or [mitchell@bomaye.com](mailto:mitchell@bomaye.com). The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is a political action committee. Your contributions are incredibly valuable, however they are not tax-deductible.



**Sunday, May 7, 2006**

**3 - 5 pm**

at the home of Marjorie & John Nielsen  
434 S. Lorraine Bl., Los Angeles (Hancock Park)

## A Word from LALCV's President



Sunday, May 7th will be an important celebration in honor of GREEN POWER. What is Green Power? Well, it is the value we get from the forces of nature – the harnessing of the wind and sun to provide us energy, the capitalizing on water resources we have rather than relying on those we have to import, the importance of trees for shade, bird habitat and fruit. Green Power is also the collective strength of a community that votes with the best interests of the health and welfare of its members in mind. Finally, Green Power represents the importance of money to support candidates that have the skills, the knowledge and the passion to make good decisions on behalf of natural resources, energy sources, transportation solutions and, most importantly, people.

Your ongoing financial support of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is a critical component to ensuring that the elected officials who guide our region have the qualities and credentials we need to protect and improve our health, our quality of life and the environment. Please make 2006 your year to commit to greater environmental action. Write a check, payable to LALCV, in the greatest amount you can afford, and, of course, join us on May 7th. As always, the party will be the best in town, where you will have lots of opportunities to chat with many of the men and women who have been elected due, in part, to your support of our political action over the years. Show that you support Green Power in all its facets. Support LALCV with a contribution today, and please join us on May 7th.

*Andi Liebenbaum*

Andi Liebenbaum, President

Visit us on the web at [www.lalcv.org](http://www.lalcv.org)



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### Green Power Important Dates

April 11th  
Local elections  
&  
May 7th  
LALCV Smith-Weiss Environmental  
Champion Awards

See inside for more information