



Conservation Voter

LALCV Endorsements for November 3, 2009 Elections

by Sandra Hamlat

Fall/Winter 2009

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President



*Participating in the
electoral process in
Los Angeles County
from an environmental
perspective*

This election cycle, the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV) was involved in a handful of city races, mostly in the San Gabriel Valley where a new generation of leaders are stepping up to provide environmental stewardship. LALCV was also involved in a couple of South Bay city elections where it was important to recognize the long-standing commitment of environmental candidates.

Below is a brief synopsis of the candidates LALCV endorsed. Please use this information when voting during the November 3rd election.

Maywood City Council

LALCV has endorsed **Oscar Magana** and **Ed Varela** for the Maywood City Council as well as **Felipe Aguirre**, an incumbent. Magana and Varela are part of a team of activists and community members dedicated to bringing clean potable water to Maywood and addressing the cumulative affects of industry. Magana sits on the Maywood Planning Commission, and Varela is a member of the Comite Maywood Unido.

El Monte

Andre Quintero has been endorsed by LALCV for the next Mayor of the City of El Monte. Quintero impressed the LALCV board with his knowledge of environmental issues and commitment to helping the residents of El Monte through its current major fiscal crisis. Additionally, Quintero is supporting the establishment of an environmental commission for the City that would seek out information regarding green building design standards for developers.

LALCV has also endorsed **Norma Macias** for the El Monte City Council. She

has also demonstrated a thorough understanding of the significant environmental issues facing El Monte.

Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees

Norma Garcia has been endorsed by LALCV for the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. Garcia is a committed and experienced environmental and community planner with a comprehensive knowledge of the community college system. She is campaigning to make the community college a leader in helping revitalize the local economy by preparing students for the 21st Century workforce in green industries and technology.

Hawthorne City Council

LALCV has endorsed **Alex Monteiro** for the Hawthorne City Council race. He has demonstrated a keen concern and understanding for the environmental protection and health of the residents and been engaged in the Hawthorne community for the past ten years, working or volunteering for the Richstone Family Center and the Hawthorne Parks and Arts Commission among others.

Hermosa Beach City Council

Michael Keegan, an incumbent, has been endorsed by LALCV. Keegan has served on the Hermosa Beach Council for the last eight years, and is a 24-year resident and homeowner in Hermosa Beach. He helped establish a green task force to address the short- and long-term environmental impacts to the City and the region.



The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is a PAC political organization. Our FPCC filing number is 810317. Your contributions to LALCV are valuable. However, they are not tax-deductible.

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Local Conservation Hangs in the Balance

by Jessica Hall

In Los Angeles conservation usually means reducing water consumption. Rarely do we think of preserving open space and natural resources. Yet this second method of conservation is quietly becoming more important in our area.

Large-scale conservation victories have transformed parts of Los Angeles County: the purchase of the Ballona Wetlands, the



Common buckeye at Ballona Wetlands

Chinatown Cornfields, and the creation of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, to name a few. These acquisitions were made possible by state bonds, some of which were championed by local politicians who became state legislators.

The state is now working with local stakeholder groups to identify marine areas to establish as preserves along the coast, an effort called the Marine Life Protected Areas (MLPA). Scientists have observed that the creation of marine preserves where all fishing is banned increases the abundance of marine life inside the preserve and outside of it. Ideally these preserves would be spaced at intervals and act like rest stops for migrating fish and marine mammals.

A potential preserve has been identified in the Santa Monica Bay including areas near Redondo Beach. Although environmentalists and scientists maintain that protecting these areas will prolong everyone's enjoyment of marine life, the project has polarized local communities, with recreational fisherman and some businesses objecting to what they see as a loss of revenue and their way of life.

Unfortunately this lack of support also extends to elected officials in several South Bay cities, including the Redondo Beach City Council, which unanimously voted to oppose the MLPA unless there were substantial changes. (Several members of the Redondo Beach city council have been endorsed by LALCV in the past).

An equally challenging conservation effort is also underway in the City of Los Angeles, which set up a committee to study options for protecting the city's remaining creeks. These creeks, probably 5 percent of what originally existed, continue to be filled,

lined with concrete, or otherwise altered by development, mostly by property owners expanding their homes. This development along creeks continues to reduce habitat, breaks up wildlife corridors, and degrades water quality. After a series of community meetings, it still remains to be determined which creeks to protect (if not all of them), how to reasonably accommodate development, and how to integrate stream protection with other city codes.

It is not clear where this will lead: an ordinance, a policy or a directive – if anywhere at all.

While LALCV works to elect politicians with a commitment to the environment, we do not get involved in fighting for specific issues or Causes. However, we do hope that our membership – and the officials we endorse – get involved and take principled positions that support environmental stewardship.



Great white egrets at Ballona Wetlands

Please Join us for our December Celebration

Join the board members of
the **Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters** for an afternoon of good cheer
with friends, colleagues, endorsed candidates, and elected officials.

The chocolate fountain and champagne are back!

JUST DESSERTS

a celebration of Environmental Leadership

Sunday, December 6, 2009 ~ 2 to 5 p.m.

at the home of Yolie Moreno
115 North Van Ness Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Three easy ways to purchase your Tickets (\$25 each):

- ◆ On-line at www.lalcv.org. Click on the "Just Desserts" graphic
- ◆ By check made payable to LALCV and mailed to P.O. Box 2173, Arcadia, CA 91077.
- ◆ RSVP to levendi49@hotmail.com and bring a check or cash to the event.



Why We Do What We Do

by Moe Stavnezer

Not everyone is aware that most of the environmental policies and laws that have the most direct impact on the citizens of Los Angeles County are approved or voted down by city councils.

Whether it's Culver City's natural gas fleet of city vehicles, water quality in Maywood, protection of natural resources in Agoura Hills, or the establishment of an Environmental Commission in Monterey Park, city councils make some of the most critical environmental decisions affecting their residents. This is why it is so important to have city council members with an understanding of and commitment to environmental principals, and why the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV) was formed almost 30 years ago. We help elect such candidates and we have made a difference.

One example is the City of Maywood, a small city south of Los Angeles with

significant environmental problems that were not being addressed by their elected officials. In 2005 we endorsed three reform candidates and contributed a great deal of resources to the campaign. All three were elected. In 2007 we again supported two candidates who were also elected.

Yet, water quality continued to be a major concern in Maywood, which has three, basically unregulated, water agencies and tap water that looks like iced tea! In 2009, the City Council majority was able to enlist the help of State Assemblymember John Perez who introduced a bill (AB 890) to force water agencies to cooperate in cleaning up the water. AB 890 was signed into law in October 2009, enabling the City of Maywood to take action to improve the water quality for its residents.

So, an action by the Maywood City Council resulted in an action in the state legislature that will have a direct impact on the quality of life for Maywood residents. LALCV is proud that our work has made a direct difference in the lives of residents throughout Los Angeles County.

It's people like
you who make
our work at
LALCV so
worthwhile.

Return Service Requested

A Word from LALCV's President



On the weekend of October 23-24, Temple Israel of Hollywood was one of hundreds of temples and synagogues across the country that participated in the Global Climate Healing Sabbath.

At my family's temple we heard the story of Noah and the flood, which warns of the danger of destruction of life on our planet. In Noah's time, people were told to repent for the sins they were committing. Lets just say, it did not end well.

Today, we are again faced with the threat of extinction. Noah was given 120 years to build his ark. God gave him that long not because he was a bad carpenter, but because he wanted to give him plenty of time to help people live better lives. Kind of like Al Gore today.

Today, we have much less time to save the world from disastrous consequences. Most experts estimate that we have a decade or less to bring emissions down to a level where we can avoid the worst possible outcomes.

We at LALCV, and those of you who belong to other environmental organizations, or who live their lives in a sustainable manner, are modern day Noahs. But whereas Noah was unsuccessful in his efforts to convince others, our work is bearing fruit. Environmentalism is now mainstream. Religious organizations, including some who are conservative in the political sense, have now joined the campaign to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

For the environmental movement to be successful, in my view, we need to continue to expand our coalition. For example, in Los Angeles, we need to build stronger ties with the labor community. These relationships will not be without some occasional hurdles; organized labor helped push through an NFL stadium in the City of Industry, effectively skirting the EIR process, which is the most crucial tool we have to measure, and if needed, mitigate, some of the unappealing aspects of development.

Yet, our movement must continue to reach out to all segments of society. A solution to our environmental problems can only be achieved with overwhelming public support. This is especially true when one sees the huge amounts of money the polluters can spend to defeat our efforts to stem climate change.

Noah was able to repopulate the planet with his offspring as well as the offspring from all the animals he brought onto the ark. What part of humanity and how many species of animals can we save?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell Scher".