

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

July, 2010

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, July 28
7:30 PM

We'll hear from more local resource providers in the human services, public health, and environmental fields. We will also hear what our elected officials are up to and how we can help in the November election.

DUES ARE PAYABLE

Many longtime BCDC members still have not renewed. Club dues were payable on June 1: \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address. Please bring your check to the meeting or mail it to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

Proposition 23 – Drastic, Deceptive, and Dangerous!

By Lillian Light

You and I have read many articles critical of politicians in general and of our state legislators in particular. I, for one, am proud of our California legislators who have passed many bills to help our environment and to reduce the dangers of global warming. They have acted when our federal government has failed to attack the problem.

The bill that makes our state number one in the world in legislating real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions is the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as AB 32. It requires that greenhouse emissions levels in the state be cut to 1990 levels by 2020, in a gradual process of cutting that is slated to begin in 2012. It directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to

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BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Last month I told you about how we can all save energy and money by participating in the Los Angeles County Energy Program (LACEP). If you haven't done so already, visit www.lacountyenergyprogram.org to find out more about it. While each of us as individuals can do our part to improve the environment, the City of Hermosa Beach has just entered into a partnership with a Fortune 500 company that is going to help the entire city save energy, save money and help the planet at the same time.



To tell the whole story, we have to look back to November 2006, when the Hermosa Beach City Council voted unanimously to sign onto the "Cool Cities Initiative," the first of the 16 cities of the South Bay to do so. "Cool Cities" is a pledge, city by city, to do what the Federal government under the Bush administration was unwilling to do, which was to sign the Kyoto agreement and pledge that the nation would take the steps necessary to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions back to 7% less than 1990 levels by the year 2012. Hermosa Beach moved forward with the "Cool Cities" pledge by first setting up the Hermosa Beach Green Building Committee in April of 2007, and then upped the ante in February of 2009 by appointing the Hermosa Beach Green Task Force. The combined efforts of these two groups have already produced changes in the building code and city practices that provide methods and incentives to help resi-

dents live and build more sustainably (e.g., reductions of permit fees for solar installation and a procedure for allowing the installation of small wind turbines).

In addition to these efforts, the Hermosa Beach Carbon Neutral City Committee, under the leadership of Mayor Michael DiVirgilio and made up of some Green Task Force members, School Board members and other concerned citizens, has been meeting almost weekly over the past few months to push the envelope even a bit further. As reflected in the committee's name, the City of Hermosa Beach has set for itself the ambitious goal of becoming the first carbon-neutral city in Los Angeles County.

To become carbon neutral, a city must offset all of its carbon-dioxide-producing activities with compensating systems and practices that remove the greenhouse gas from the atmosphere or produce no pollution at all. For example, the city could decide to require reductions in vehicle use, mandate tree planting and promote alternative energy. Just how Hermosa Beach is going to achieve its goal is what the Carbon Neutral City Committee has been brainstorming during its meetings. An inspiration for this carbon-neutral project has been the "Green Idea House" www.greenideahouse.com belonging to Robert and Monica Fortunato on Prospect Avenue in Hermosa Beach. The Fortunatos have pledged to remodel their 1950s-built home into a fully net-zero energy, zero-carbon home. They are doing it with the help of "green partners," suppliers of environmentally innovative products and services who are providing some of their products and services at no cost or at reduced cost in order to showcase their wares to future customers. This led to the

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Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

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idea of christening Hermosa Beach as the "Green Idea City," and doing for the whole city what the Fortunatos are doing with their home. Already, the "green partners" are starting to materialize. One of these is AECOM, the Fortune 500 Company I alluded to at the beginning of this column.

AECOM is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government. They have provided their services to Dubai, London, and Austin to name just a few of their clients. AECOM serves clients in more than 100 countries and had a revenue of \$6.3 billion during the 12-month period ending March 31, 2010. With all of those resources, AECOM is coming to Hermosa Beach and offering its services for free! Why, because in the

words of Ruben Rojas, J.D., AECOM Senior Associate Program Manager, "Hermosa Beach has a longstanding history of leadership when it comes to improving and protecting the environment—the city council's carbon neutral pledge is yet another example of that leadership. With AECOM's reach and the city's forward-thinking leaders, we are confident that we will be able to help make Hermosa Beach an even more environmentally friendly place to live, work and play."

I will keep you posted in future columns as to Hermosa Beach's progress in achieving its carbon neutral goal. In the meantime, for more information on AECOM and its services visit www.aecom.com.



Bradley Bartz explains how solar panels work

(Proposition 23, continued from page 1)

begin developing early voluntary actions, while preparing a plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit. CARB is considering setting some curbs on harmful emissions from power plants and factories.

The need for such action is great since global emissions of carbon dioxide rise every year, and soon people will be facing the horrendous consequences of runaway global warming. Let me remind you that these include rising sea levels, acidified and warming oceans, melting glaciers, droughts, floods, millions of climate refugees, and increasingly violent weather wreaking death and destruction on low-lying lands. AB 32 was passed to slow this process, and has been a beacon of hope in our country and in the world.

Valero Energy, Tesoro Oil Co., Occidental, and others have spent two million dollars to put Proposition 23 on the November ballot to get Californians to destroy AB 32 so that these oil companies can make more money. Proposition 23 is supported by the California Republican Party, and most of the Republican candidates for office. It suspends state laws requiring reduced global warming emissions until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. It requires the state to abandon

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Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

In Early Colonial days, Thomas Paine wrote that "these are the times that try men's souls." He did not foresee the ongoing continuous trials of the USA, which saddle us today. My case in point is the Supreme Court ruling that corporations are comparable to human beings & have the same inalienable rights to voice their political opinion, and spend their fool heads off! Extending the logic of business, we now face the corporation that is wholly or partially owned by a foreign entity (government or individual). Corporate stock or shares are bought & sold to anyone who can pay the price, regardless of citizenship.

What we face now are companies like Chrysler owned by Italian Fiat; Citgo oil owned by Venezuela (& dictator Chavez); and Budweiser owned by the Belgian company InBev. Do we need or want



these or any other foreign entities involved in our internal local elections?? And what percentage of ownership is meaningful, 10% or 25% or 50%?? or whatever!!!

Extending my viewing of the Supreme Court, we must have serious misgivings (& fears) when you consider Justices Thomas & Scalia. These two overtly conservative relics do not draw a line in the sand when prisoners are subjected to cruelty or torture or unreasonable treatment. They believe that punishment is what the court applies, however abuse such as waterboarding is a means of extracting information. I seem to recall that Adolph Hitler had this same logic in treating concentration camp victims.

Using the logic of these two "justices" we ended up with John C. Yoo recommending waterboarding to President George Dubyah and saying that it is NOT TORTURE. So here I sit writing in my 86th year and I can no longer see the shining house of liberty at the top of the hill.

June Recap

Our program this month featured solar technology, presented by Bradley Bartz, owner of ABC Solar. Founded in 2000, the company is one of California's most experienced solar electric and hybrid solar pumping contractors. Bartz said that solar powering the home does not have to be expensive and provides good return on investment.

He showed several types of solar panels and other equipment as he explained how solar power works. Panels convert sunlight into direct current, and an inverter converts it into alternating current for electricity. A meter measures electricity flow and allows the customer to get credit for excess electricity added to the grid. It is not necessary to have a battery backup for normal household use because the utility's electric grid serves as a backup. During a power outage, the solar electric system shuts down immediately for safety reasons.

Bartz spoke about a company called Sunoven.com that provides solar cooking programs in developing countries. Solar powered ovens use the sun to cook a wide variety of food while enhancing the taste and benefiting the environment. In Haiti, Over 350 Global Sun Ovens have been distributed in seven tent camps to families who have been trained in their use.

Bartz spoke in favor of Assembly Bill 811, which would provide low interest loans to homeowners for upgrading to energy-efficient technology. It allows property owners to finance energy improvements through low-interest loans that can be repaid as an item on the property tax bill. He also credited Governor

Schwartzenegger for the California Solar Initiative signed in 2006 that helps alleviate the cost of solar installations.

Bartz said that solar power adds value to a house. For every \$1,000 of annual energy savings from a photovoltaic system, home resale value goes up by an estimated \$20,000.

Reports

Teresa Bird reported on the campaigns and said that lots of local people worked for James Lau, who came in second. Northern California candidates won most of the federal offices. Jane Harman won 53% of the vote, defeating Marcy Winograd. Teresa said overall turnout was a disappointment with only 16% coming out to vote in our Assembly District. Reportedly, Torrance saw 27% turnout, Redondo Beach, 28%, Hermosa Beach, 26%, and Manhattan Beach, 30%.

Dency Nelson reported that our **Hermosa Beach Fiesta** booth was fully staffed and many of our 53rd AD candidates came to spend time in the booth. However, there was also lots of traffic at the Libertarian and Republican booths across the way. Jane Harman came by the booth and was shown the various Green features at the fair including the bike valet, co-sponsored by Hermosa Cyclery.

We discussed the club's **Yahoo bulletin board**, and the fact that it is not intended to serve as a debate forum. Mark Drabkin oversees the site, and some members post announcements and articles of interest, but we do not include campaign materials and opinion pieces.

Nominating Committee: Bobbi Buescher reported that Jeff Hirsch is a candidate for Club vice-president, and Edna Murphy has agreed to serve again

as Treasurer. Since no one has stepped up to accept the presidency, Lori will continue for the time being as acting president. We are also seeking someone to fill the Secretary position.

Bobbi also reported on the **County Committee** meeting:

Eric Bauman gave a very informative PowerPoint rundown on the races. The question was raised whether Eric would remain chair of the Committee since he is also serving as Vice-chair of the State Party. In addition:

- ♦ There was a speaker from New Directions, an organization that helps veterans.
- ♦ The Party is going to continue to be involved in voter registration at the County Fair and naturalization ceremonies.
- ♦ The Legislative Committee wants to go to work in support of bill 2492, on overhauling property tax; AB 1602, on health services to low income families; and AB 1999 on alcohol consumption by minors.
- ♦ A date has not yet been set for the FDR Awards dinner.

Bobbi and Rochelle reported on the **53rd AD meeting** held at Hennessey's. Betsy Butler showed up to thank her supporters. There are plans to hold a District-wide event with a low ticket price sometime in September to showcase all the candidates. Teresa has requested available dates from Jerry Brown.

Tony Hale and Edna Murphy are revising the GOTV procedures manual. Edna said the DAC is looking for fund raising opportunities.



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*Beach Cities
 Democratic Club*



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 implementation of the comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction program that includes increased renewable energy and cleaner fuel requirements, mandatory emission reporting, and fee requirements for major polluters. There is a potential that state revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances by the state may be foregone, because future implementation of cap-and-trade regulations will be suspended.

An idea of who would profit from this proposition can be gained from the list of the biggest donations to the "California Jobs Initiative Committee" (before May 20th):

Valero	\$500,000
Occidental Petroleum	\$300,000
Tesoro Companies	\$300,000
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association	\$100,000
Tower Energy Group	\$100,000
World Oil Corp	\$100,000
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association	\$100,000

If this proposition succeeds in stopping the use of renewable energy and cleaner fuels, oil company profits will rise.

This deceitful and confusing "California Jobs Initiative" is intended to get voters to overturn the global warming bill under the guise of saving jobs. The ballot measure will, in fact, kill competition from California's emerging "clean energy" businesses, costing California thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investments. Suspending AB 32 would be a real job-killer. "A December study by NEXT 10, a San Francisco Think Tank, found that jobs in California green businesses grew 36% from 1995 to 2008, while total employment expanded only 13%." (*LA Times*, 2/6/10). The same article quoted Aaron Mc Lear saying that it is "deceptively written to protect big polluters and would keep us from staying No. 1 in the country in creating clean tech jobs." California really needs these jobs, since the state has lost 34% of its manufacturing jobs since 2001!

Even our Republican Governor is

concerned, and has said "This initiative sponsored by greedy Texas oil companies would cripple California's fastest growing economic sector, reverse our renewable energy policy and decimate our environmental progress for the benefit of these oil companies' profit margins."

Courage Campaign has initiated a campaign to boycott Valero and Beacon gas stations for wantonly seeking to destroy our environment. To find out more about this boycott contact <http://www.couragecampaign.org/boycottvalero>.

AB 32 seeks to stop the global devastation that is now occurring, and is helping to insure that our grandchildren will inhabit a livable planet. It is very important to oppose Proposition 23 and to advise your family members and friends to vote against it in the November election. In doing so, you will be helping to set our state and our country on the path to a sustainable future.