

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 27
7:00 PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center
710 Pier Avenue, Room #4
Hermosa Beach

Program

Our April meeting will be an endorsement meeting, please plan to attend! In addition to hearing from local electeds and getting updates on local and national political news, we have invited the Democratic candidates for LA County Superior Court Judge to join us and introduce themselves.

Ever wish you knew more about these candidates when it comes time to vote? Well, this is your chance to meet them!

We'll circulate a final list of those who plan to attend prior to the meeting.

Democratic National Convention

July 25-28
Philadelphia

Win election to represent your candidate and your community.
<http://www.cadem.org/our-party/national-convention>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year I would like to celebrate Earth Day by sharing some research I read recently on how our diet impacts the earth we live in today and tomorrow. Let me start by saying that I still eat meat and animal products, and I have no plans to switch to an entirely vegan diet anytime soon. However, my diet is shifting over time, and that is largely due to my increasing environmental awareness of diet choices.



Here are a few facts that have influenced my thinking:

1. According to www.wannaveg.com, going vegan just one extra day a week means you've saved the planet an astonishing 84,000 gallons of

water. That's because it takes about 2,600 gallons of water to produce a pound of beef. That's equivalent to taking a 7 minute shower every day for six months!

2. A University of Chicago study found that substantially reducing or eliminating animal products from your diet could reduce your carbon footprint by a greater amount than trading in your gas burning car for a hybrid. To illustrate that point, PETA claims that producing two strips of regular bacon produces more greenhouse gases than driving a mile in a Prius.
3. Every six seconds, an acre of rainforest is cut down for cattle farming. That's around 14,400 acres every day.
4. Of course, as we all learned in the great almond debate last year, some non meat products can also

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Our well-attended March meeting featured a debate on the Hermosa School Bond Measure; above, Chris Miller addresses the group on the Opposition side.

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- consume a disproportionate amount of water or generate an outsized carbon footprint. Check out watercalculator.org to get an idea of some items you consume regularly to see how much water they require. And focusing on locally produced, small farm organics is not only healthier for your body, the soil, and our insect ecosystems, it also reduces energy consumed by transportation from distant lands.
5. Finally, let's talk about the impact that direct and indirect subsidies have on the cost of meat and animal products, and therefore consumption. According to thedailypitchfork.org article "Forbes Billionaires Top US Welfare Ranchers List," some of the biggest welfare recipients in America are .1%ers who benefit from our one billion dollar a year's worth of subsidies by allowing and actively protecting the grazing of cattle on public lands.

If we were to stop allowing the use of public lands for subsidized grazing, add carbon taxes to capture methane and other climate change toxins, fully capture the replacement value of water, and otherwise attempt to capture the "externalities" of animal based food products, the cost of those products would increase substantially. And you know what, I'm okay with that. I think that most Americans would agree that it makes more sense to price food appropriately to its true cost, rather than subsidizing products that are inherent polluters. Even better, let's then put that money towards better long term investments such as education and clean energy!

So what do you say, wanna join me in making one recipe switch a week for a healthier earth? Happy Earth Day, I'm SO glad you're all on this planet with me!

Kathryn E. Campbell
President, Beach Cities Democrats

kathrync@hotmail.com

March Recap

Courtesy of Secretary Thomas Kelleher
President Kathryn Campbell greeted the attendees. She introduced guests, including Dr. Michael Collins, a leader in the Keep Hermosa Hermosa campaign, and Davia Rivka from the Citizen's Climate League.

Officer Reports

Vice President Dency Nelson talked about the club's openness to visitors and new members regardless of whether they are or are not registered Democrats. He discussed the success of Beach Cities Democrats' endorsed candidates in local elections.

Treasurer Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report:

Federal Acct

Beginning Balance	\$2,854
Money In	40
Money Out	40
Ending Balance	\$2,854

State Acct

Beginning Balance	\$ 371
Money In	0
Money Out	15
Ending Balance	\$ 356

Minutes from the February meeting, taken by Thomas Kelleher, were approved unanimously.

Debate Regarding Hermosa Beach School Bond Measure

Dr. Michael Collins and Chris Miller debated whether Beach Cities Democrats should endorse ballot measure S, which would use a site in northern Hermosa Beach for a new elementary-age school in HBSD.

Speaking in favor of the measure, Dr. Collins spoke about how this site was deliberately kept by HBSD because they knew another school would be needed in the future, how this is the only viable site for another school, and how the need for

another school was urgent based on the dysfunction of the currently overcrowded schools.

In opposition, Chris Miller questioned whether the Hermosa Community Center could also be used as a school site. She brought attention to the potentially high carbon footprint caused by construction and the possibility of congestion in the neighborhood as a result of the school.

After the language of the ballot was read aloud, Tony Hale made and Moira Nelson seconded a motion to vote on the measure. It was unanimously endorsed.

Citizen's Climate Lobby presentation on a Carbon Fee and Dividend policy

Davia Rivka, of the Citizen's Climate Lobby, spoke about ways she explains the pertinence of global warming to the lives of people whom she encounters, telling a story about a conversation she had about global warming with an initially-uninterested stranger on a train. Her story ended by explaining the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal, in which companies would be taxed for carbon emissions and then the money from this tax would be distributed to American households. Tony Hale made and Moira Nelson seconded a motion to endorse the policy. It passed unanimously.

Reports from Local Democratic Organizations

Tony Hale reported on the County Committee, where he proposed two environmental resolutions, one of which passed.

Old Business

President Kathryn Campbell reported on the Democratic convention in San Jose, noting Kamala Harris's endorsement for Senator. She also expressed how much she enjoyed Joe Biden's speech.

The meeting was adjourned.



Davia Rivka Discusses the Carbon Fee & Dividend Policy

Citizens Climate Lobby Follow-up

Davia and I enjoyed so much your lively meeting on March 23rd. We thank you for your endorsement of Carbon Fee & Dividend.

Here's the latest news on Carbon Fee & Dividend:

- Eight members of Congress have joined the Climate Solutions Caucus, four Democrats and four Republicans, bringing the total to ten members. This caucus calls on the House to start working on climate solutions. Caucus co-chairs are Florida Republican Congressman Carlos Curbelo and Democrat Ted Deutch.
- In what could be an early show of support for a national Carbon Fee & Dividend policy, Washington state residents will vote in November whether to create the nation's first carbon tax. This tax would put a price on carbon emissions, but also lower the state sales tax and provide a Working Families Rebate, making the measure revenue-neutral.

Best wishes,
Kathy Seal, for CCL-Los Angeles
310-452-2908

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is a boots-on-the-ground group run by local volunteers. We work with three LA-based members of Congress, and we reach out to other community-based organizations. We welcome new members. You can join CCL easily at no cost, on this website, <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>, and then you'll be invited to learn more about our group in an introductory phone call.

Climate Action Forum

PV Democrats member Carolyn Liesy has announced an opportunity to hear from many environmental groups all in one place: the **Climate Action Forum** on Saturday, April 23 from 9AM to noon at St Luke's Presbyterian Church at 26825 Rolling Hills Rd., Rolling Hills Estates.

Dr. Tom English will describe how he led the effort that saw the Presbyterian Church USA adopt a policy to preserve biodiversity and halt the trend toward mass extinction.

Edric Guise, from the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) will detail his national group's call for a national Carbon Fee and Dividend program designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 52% below 1990 levels within 20 years. Guise will share how CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend program provides the power to achieve these reductions while growing our economy and saving lives.

Joe Galliani will introduce California's amazing Community Choice Aggregation program which is expected to launch in 2016 by Los Angeles County and which has as its goal nothing short of transforming Los Angeles County to 100% renewable energy over the next 10 years and generating an investment and jobs boon in the County along with the clean, green makeover. "We are at the end of the fossil fuel era and we already have all the off-the-shelf renewable energy technology and storage we need to replace the dirty fuels that are killing our climate," says Galliani. "Once people learn how easy it is to save ourselves and our children, their only question is usually 'What are we waiting for?!'"

Also participating in the Conference are six other environmental organizations providing climate solutions and giving attendees opportunities to take action: **The Sierra Club, Communities for a Better Environment, Food & Water Watch, the Environmental Priorities Network, the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance, and Pando Populus.** Representatives from each group will share

their organization's mission, answer questions and provide real world roles that individuals can play to make a difference on climate.

Non-Partisan Politics?

You may remember I have written before that there is no such thing as non-partisan politics. Nothing makes that clearer than a comparison of the Democratic Party and Republican Party platforms for California.

If you wish to compare for yourself, they are both online.

Just looking at the two in the beginning tells you something. The GOP uses only 11 pages to tell their plans while our party uses 27 pages.

Our party lays out specific proposals for the state. Government is seen as a means to enhance the lives of the millions who need a boost up the economic ladder, to stimulate our economy and to protect our environment. The Republicans see government as a barrier.

That means the Republicans would vote against any local changes in the minimum wage.

The battle to raise the minimum wage began among Democrats at the local level and has now become state law.

The Republican platform would turn over public employee pensions to Wall Street. We know how dangerous that might be. Now that they have destroyed pensions in the private sector, they wish to destroy the public sector.

Republicans want to encourage more home schooling, private schools, religious schools and charter schools, which would destroy the public school system. Check out the votes and positions of some school board candidates. They want to blame unions for our school problems rather than looking at the real culprit.

The Republican platform defines marriage as one man and one woman. Does this mean that a LGBT employee could not include their spouse under their health insurance plan?

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Overlooked is that many city council members serve on multi-agency boards and commissions. Recently it was reported that Republicans now have a majority on the Air Resources Board and are about to loosen the air pollution standards that have constantly improved our air quality over the past 50 years.

Remember all this when you vote for a non-Democrat in your council elections. That Republican may say they are different but when they vote, watch out.

Lori Geittmann

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Editor's note: Many thanks to Lori Geittmann for contributing to this issue of BCD. Your column is greatly appreciated!
Maira Zucker

