

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

June, 2010

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, June 23
7:30 PM

Leadership Opportunity

BCDC is slated to elect new officers this month. The nominating committee is seeking club members to serve as president, vice-president, and secretary. Now is your opportunity to step up and lead as we head into the challenging midterm election season. If you or somebody you know would be eligible and willing, get in touch with former club presidents Bobbi Buescher bobbimb@aol.com or Ray Waters, raywaters35@gmail.com.

DUES ARE PAYABLE

Club membership dues were due 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.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Coming this summer to the South Bay and other parts of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Energy Program (LACEP)! What's LACEP? It's a way for homeowners to save energy, save the planet and save money all at the same time. And it creates jobs, putting hundreds of construction professionals back to work. Talk about a multiple win!

All of this is possible because of Assembly Bill 811 (AB 811), which was effective as of January 1, 2009. AB 811 and its amendments authorize local governments to provide financing to qualified property owners for the installation of energy- and water-efficiency improvements and "distributed generation renewable energy sources."



In a nutshell, it covers everything from duct sealing and weather stripping all the way up to solar panels and wind turbines. Participating property owners repay the cost of the improvements through an assessment levied against their property and paid in installments on their property tax bills over 15 to 20 years. The assessment is a lien filed against the property as security, which means the assessment remains with the property should the owner transfer or sell it. What it comes down to is that homeowners who participate in this program will not only be able to take advantage of significant federal and local rebates and tax credits to offset the cost of these energy-saving retrofits and renewable-power-system installations, but because of AB 811's innovative property-lien-based funding, they will be able to do it without worrying about the biggest obstacle usually preventing a homeowner from taking advantage of these incentives, the often high upfront costs.

(Continued on page 2)

Scenes from the Fiesta

Over the Memorial Day weekend, BCDC put up our booth at the Hermosa Beach Fiesta. We shared the Free Speech Zone with Republicans, Environmentalists, and other groups.

Ray Waters and Dency Nelson did most of the work, but Edna Murphy took on multiple shifts, as did other club members.

Candidates in all the Democratic races were invited to share the booth, and Senator Jenny Oropeza's representative Primitivo Castro (r) was among those who took us up on the offer.



Left, Primitivo Castro with his daughter Madison. Right, One-Stop Shopping for Republicans: Bobbi Buescher (who took the picture) wrote: "In this universe of random happenings, it absolutely made us roll with laughter at the Beach Cities booth, when we looked across the pier to see these two booths next to each other. Republicans in one and intelligence testing in the other."

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

(Green, continued from page 1)

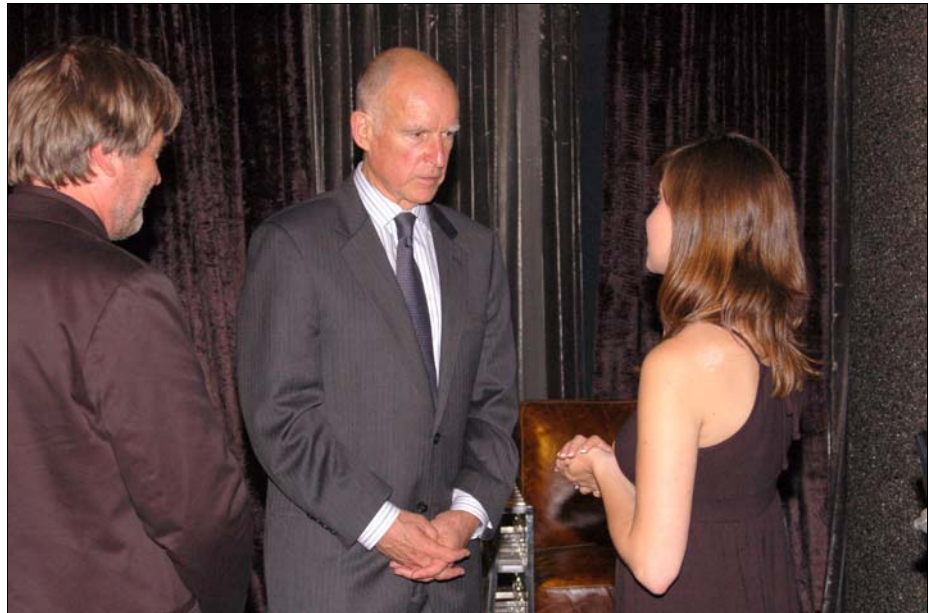
The funding for the development and administration of LACEP comes from Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants that the County received. Loans to participating property owners will be financed from bonds issued by the County at no cost to County taxpayers or taxpayers in participating cities.

For the community, LACEP helps shift the region toward greater energy efficiency and a renewable-energy-resource economy. It will spur the local economy by creating "green" home energy retrofit jobs and stimulate local "green" research, development and manufacturing. For homeowners, it will help reduce energy and water use as well as greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, participants will reduce their ongoing costs for electricity, natural gas and water, and improve the comfort and safety of their homes. LACEP seeks to achieve the following goals by the end of the ARRA funding term in 2012:

- ♦ Retrofit 15,000 single-family homes with a 20% average energy reduction.
- ♦ Create 1600 home energy retrofit jobs and 1,000 auxiliary jobs.
- ♦ Reduce annual purchased energy consumption in retrofitted homes by \$2 million in utility charges.
- ♦ Reduce the County's annual greenhouse gas emissions by 20,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

The first phase of LACEP will fund improvements to existing single-family and small multi-family (up to four units) residential buildings. New construction is not eligible. Disbursement of loans to eligible residential applicants is expected to begin after September 1, 2010.

For more information about the program and to sign up for this exciting and innovative way to achieve an affordable and sustainable home that will help save the planet and your bottom line, visit www.lacountyenergyprogram.org.



Dency Nelson and his daughter Charlie were honored to meet with "the once and future Governor of California, Jerry Brown" at a fundraiser last month. They shared some quality time with Brown and were impressed with his attentive listening as they spoke.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock



Until today I had planned to focus on another matter of concern but then I read a couple of newspaper articles that changed my plans. First there was the case of our "Governator-par-excellence" who has devised a budget that calls for cuts of \$12.4 BILLION in coverage of welfare needs.

He hopes the shortage will be picked up by Washington, DC. In truth, tax revenues in this state are DOWN: real estate values have collapsed; and unemployment is dangerously high. The movie star turned legislator is no longer a potential presidential candidate...based on his lack of accomplishments, his lack of credibility, and his lack of what some people would call MENSCHLICHKEIT (in Yiddish it means simple human kindness).

At this point, let me quote Darrell

Steinberg, democrat & president of the California Senate who said, "What kind of civilized society maintains business tax breaks and eliminates childcare?" Personally, I must add that our tax structure is so warped out of shape and receipts do not come close to covering our needs...so why NOT create another tax on those who can and should well afford to pay it?

As a secondary comment, a minor politico in Arizona & candidate for public office said that we should cut lawmakers' pay down to \$104,000 per year. Then use the savings to build a capitol hill barracks where all 535 Senators & Representatives would be required to live!!! If the GIs abroad can do it, so should they...and I'm sure we could ALL live with that !!

May Recap

Endorsement Decisions

Our May meeting focused on discussion of the 53rd AD endorsement, which we had postponed last month in order to evaluate the candidates at our May Forum (see writeup in last month's issue). This month, after considering all the contestants, we agreed that any one of them would be well qualified to lead, and in the interest of Party harmony we would make no endorsement.

In other business, Lori passed around a writeup of the recent California Jobs Budget proposal by Assembly Speaker John Pérez. It calls for terminating many important programs, but also for raising the oil severance tax and some other taxes, and lowering University fees. It was generally felt that this represented a good first pass, however unlikely it is to go through. Club members moved to send a letter to Speaker Pérez endorsing his budget proposal and thanking him for submitting it. Major concerns expressed by members included public education, the CHIP program, mental health, and outsourcing jobs. We wish Speaker Pérez all success in dealing with these issues.

Ray Waters, reporting from the Hermosa Beach School Board, said that the district's budget is \$1.4 million short and the District now needs to lay off ten teachers. Contributions from parents are down by 30% due to the recession.

Ray also announced that he would hold a potluck at his home following the takedown of our booth at the Memorial Weekend Fiesta Hermosa. He passed

around signup sheets for booth workers, who will be sharing the booth with candidates.

For the second month in a row, we had a judicial candidate show up to speak to the club. We briefly gave the floor to Randy Haddock, who is the incumbent in Office 28 of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Haddock said he is a loyal Democrat but does not have the endorsement of the Los Angeles County Democratic Committee. He is the only candidate among the seven in the race who is currently serving as a judge.

Haddock said that as a Court Referee in the Dependency Court, he has to make Solomon-like decisions every day in custodial disputes involving child abuse and neglect. His endorsements include the Los Angeles Progressive Democrats, the LA Times and Daily Breeze, Sheriff Lee Baca, District Attorney Steve Cooley, and Janice Hahn. *(Editor's note: Haddock went on to win the seat.)*

Meetings and Announcements

Reporting from the 53rd AD meeting, Edna Murphy said Peter Niemic is moving out of the area. It was also announced that the 53rd AD Democratic Woman and Man of the Year have been selected: they are Frances Pin and Kelly Willis. They are to be honored at the upcoming Franklin Delano Roosevelt Awards Ceremony.

Rochelle Schneider reported that the Torrance Club has presented a resolution on Single Payer Health Care.

Lori announced that Jane Harman is looking for volunteers to walk and make calls; contact Lori for details.



Randy Haddock, who spoke at the meeting, went on to win his seat in the LA Superior Court.

Dency Nelson said that he and his daughter Charlie were honored meet directly with Jerry Brown at a fund raiser in May (see photo).

Jim Kennedy reported that Janice Hahn is trailing slightly behind Gavin Newsom, but she has not started working on her Northern California campaign yet. Congresswoman Maxine Waters has endorsed Newsom.

Another visitor at the meeting was Bridgette Portman, a student who is doing research for her doctorate at UC Irvine. She is interested in political activism and passed around a web address for those willing to take an anonymous online survey.



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Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Database and mailing
Moiraz@alumni.reed.edu
Moiraz Zucker—310-546-7562
Newsletter
(Open)
Secretary
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Treasurer
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
Vice-President
Lori Gettmann (Acting) 310-316-1729
President
P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Beach Cities
Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



Please Print

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box *only* if you would like to receive it by US mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with mailing Hospitality Write for newsletter

Register voters Programs Legislative Membership Other

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