

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

## October 2019 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

**Join us at 2 pm to socialize!**

#### OCTOBER MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Oct 13th  
**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE  
**TOPIC:** Which Water Will You Drink  
**SPEAKERS:** Conner Everts, DeSal Response; E.J. Caldwell, West Basin, and RPV City Council candidates

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Nov 17th  
**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE  
**TOPIC:** Standing up to the Fearmongers  
**SPEAKERS:** Nick Morrow, Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP); Grace Farwell, SBCCOG, and Grassroots Dems HQ

#### Inside This Month's Issue:

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**Come to a Meeting and WIN A FREE DOOR PRIZE!**



**Socialize** with your fellow Democrats. **Learn** what our speakers and activists have to say. And have the opportunity to **Win** a book or momento just by writing your name on a FREE raffle ticket.

### October General Meeting:

**Editor's Note:** Our October Program date changed from Oct 20th to Oct 13th due to a schedule conflict with the Peninsula Library. Owing to the date change, our speakers and theme were updated.

**Which Water Will You Drink - Desalinated or Potable Reuse from Waste Water and/or Treated Brackish Water?** is the theme for our October 13th meeting, where we will hear from both sides of the desalination debate. Also RPV City Council candidates Dave Emenhiser and Steve Perestam will talk about the upcoming election.

**Conner Everts**, co-chair of the Desal Response Group, is the facilitator of the Environmental Water Caucus, executive director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance, and chair of Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER). Conner was elected to the Casitas Municipal Water District and was president of the Ojai Basin Management Ground Water Agency. Currently he is a member of the Mound Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. Everts was convener of the California Urban Water Conservation Council and on the state task forces on TMDLs, Desalination, and the SWRCB recycled water stakeholder process and the Direct Potable Reuse Advisory group. But his most important work is as elder advisor to the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water.

**E.J. Caldwell**, West Basin's Water Policy and Resources Development Manager, will speak on the Final Environmental Impact Report



West Basin is generating in support of the desalination plant in the South Bay.

### September General Meeting Report

by **Tex Yamada and Ann Nye**

*Making a Difference* was the theme of our September meeting.

#### LAANE's "Our People Our Port" Campaign

**Amardeep Gill**, Senior Community Organizer at Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), explained the plight of truck drivers, who operate out of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the largest port complex in the Western hemisphere. In late 2000s, LAANE formed a coalition of labor, environmental, and public health allies to champion the Clean Truck Program to "green" the truck fleet, and convert truck drivers to employees versus independent contractors so that companies bear the cost of the truck upgrades. The problem is the Clean Trucks Program passed in 2008, but employee conversion was tossed out by the 9th Circuit due to federal preemption.



The truck driver situation was significantly impacted by the Clean Truck Program, which raised emission standard requirements of trucks. Older trucks were phased out in favor of emission-friendly, newer model trucks and trucking companies forced truck drivers into predatory leasing agreements. Gill referenced a [USA Today, four-part series of articles in 2017](#), which exposed this exploitation by the truck leasing companies against the truck drivers.

According to Gill, even though the truck drivers are still classified as "independent contractors," the CA Labor Commissioner has found in over 400 cases that truck drivers are in fact employees

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of the trucking companies. There is no law stating that the trucking companies have to misclassify their truck drivers or that truck drivers have to be “independent contractors”. This is simply a way for trucking companies to exploit truck drivers and push the costs of doing business on the back of the drivers; specifically, companies don’t have to pay for a driver’s sick leave, vacations, holiday or medical insurance.

To help Port truck drivers, LAANE supported CA Senate Bill 1402, which was signed into law September 2018. The law, sponsored by Ricardo Lara (former State Senator and recently elected State Insurance Commissioner) states:

- Trucking companies not compliant with orders for violations of labor/employment laws are placed on a public bad actor list
- Contracting retailers (e.g. TJ Maxx, Walmart) can be found jointly liable upon second violation, and forced to pay
- Pressures retailers to hold trucking companies accountable for labor violations. That customers (retailers) who contract with or use port drayage motor carriers who have unpaid wage, tax and workers’ compensation are deemed jointly liable

Empowered by SB1402, LAANE has stood up to the global mining company Rio Tinto and its supply chain providers, NFI Industries and its subsidiary, Cal Cartage



Express, and claimed they are exploiting truck driver and “employee rights.”. They recently succeeded in getting City Hall and the Harbor Commission to revoke the lease of the Ports’ largest trucking company, NFI and its subsidiary Cal Cartage, from one of the largest Port warehouses due to their continuous law breaking practices and refusal to meet new labor standards. In California, Port truckers transport Rio Tinto mining products from Boron, CA to the Long Beach and Los Angeles Ports, about 130 miles. Rio Tinto possesses copper mines in Utah and Arizona. Gill said these mining sites are potential targets for future LAANE protest rallies and demonstrations.

In support of the LAANE agenda, PV Dems passed a resolution at the September meeting to back Port truck drivers in their efforts to negotiate improved labor and wage conditions. The vote passed unanimously.

## Sister District South Bay LA Wins State Legislative Seats Across the U.S.

**Gary Boston**, representative of Sister District Project South Bay-LA and former PV Dem 2nd VP, discussed elections in 2019 and 2020 at the state level and Sister District’s plan to help Democrats win legislative seats. The Sister District Project was founded in 2016 in Northern California, soon after the November general election in response to the overwhelming takeover of state legislative races by the Republicans. It has grown rapidly into a national political nonprofit organization with over 40,000 volunteers throughout the U.S.



State legislative races influence Congressional, Presidential and Governor races. Between 2009 and 2018, in the House, Senate and Governor races, Democrats lost their majority to the Republicans, but now they’re beginning to win them back. Check out this interactive map from the Sister District Project: - <https://sisterdistrict.com/why-states-matter/state-control-over-time/>.

The Sister District goal is to build and maintain Democratic majorities in state legislatures throughout the nation. Boston cites a strategy of targeting state legislative chambers under three different conditions. Blue Flips is a situation where Democrats are in the minority by 1-4 seats but can flip the majority to “Blue” within one cycle. Blue Holds is a condition where Democrats hold a razor thin 1-2 seat majority, which needs to be maintained or even expanded. Blue Inroads, “No Chamber Left Behind”, is the situation where Democrats are in the minority and do not have a realistic chance of flipping in one cycle, but will take steps to close the gap ahead of the Census in 2020 and redistricting which follows thereafter.

The Sister District strategy efforts in 2019 take aim at three states, Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, with hopes of carrying out Blue Flip and Blue Inroads successes in state legislatures. Sister District Project South Bay-LA is providing strong support for two races in Virginia, Shelly Simonds for House of Delegates and Cheryl Turpin for State Senate.

Simonds is an educator and a community leader in Newport News, who is running for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates, District 94. Turpin is a high school Science teacher and is running for Virginia Beach State Senate, District 7. The Virginia General Election is November 5.

Looking ahead to 2020, Boston showed that current target lists include Blue Flips in Minnesota (Senate), Wisconsin (Senate), Michigan (House), and Florida (Senate); Blue Holds in Colorado (Senate) and Delaware (Senate); and Blue Inroads in Florida (House), Georgia (House and Senate), North Carolina (House and Senate), Ohio (House and Senate), Pennsylvania (Senate), Texas (House and Senate), and Wisconsin (House). These elections are referred to as “Last Chance Races” since the Census is also conducted in 2020 and the ensuing redistricting relies on the newly acquired data for a 10-year period until the next Census in 2030.

The Sister District Project also helps raise money for candidates. According to the 2018 Sister District Impact Report, volunteers raised \$763,443 for candidates. Sister District brings small dollar donations to campaigns, with an average donation of slightly over \$22, and raised a median of \$27,562 for each candidate. Contributions made through Sister District volunteer work accounted for a median of 7.01% of each candidate’s total fundraising.

According to Boston, “Sister District sees the 2019 and 2020 elections as a once-in-a-decade opportunity to ensure that we have fairer election maps for the next ten years by flipping state legislative seats in key states.” And, he continued, “Our local group is working on two races in Virginia and with election day coming up in November, we’d like to have Palos Verdes Democrats join us.”

## SBCCOG Brings High Speed Broadband to the South Bay

**Jacki Bacharach**, Executive Director of South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) represents an organization with joint powers authority of 16 cities and the County of Los Angeles that strives to promote quality of life and productivity in



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the South Bay region.

Bacharach came to speak to us about bringing a fast broadband network (1Gbit/sec) to all the South Bay cities by July 2020 using Measure M funding to pay for the one-time capital improvement. To tell her story she needed to provide us some background on how SBCCOG championed this program. SBCCOG created the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) with the energy companies (SCE and So Cal Gas) to provide energy efficiency information to our residents and businesses and most importantly, to provide energy savings projects for South Bay agencies. They expanded the Partnership to include Sanitation, Water Districts, and LA County Metro (which is relevant to today's broadband story). Back in the Spring of 2016, the city of Torrance received a wake-up call when businesses began leaving, citing poor quality and expensive network services as their reason for leaving.

In a \$200K study and process funded by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, SBCCOG discovered:

- Many cities are purchasing less bandwidth than they actually need
- Cities are paying too much for what they are buying, where average costs were ~\$4,000/mo for far less than one gigabit of bandwidth service
- Demand will increase each year for the foreseeable future, making fiber optics an essential infrastructure component

To keep businesses from leaving, Bacharach said they knew they needed to implement a fiber optic high-speed broadband network infrastructure to improve internet access, support cloud computing, and generate real-time data to aid in decision-making.

Luckily, Bacharach and her team were able to negotiate with Metro (one of SBCCOG's partners) regarding Measure M sub regional funds for non-recurring (capital) costs to fund the high-speed broadband network to the cities in the South Bay. The reason they were able to use Measure M funding is because the high-speed broadband facilitates virtual presence and telecommuting, which reduces traffic congestion. In April 2019, they negotiated a letter of intent with American Dark Fiber to implement the network and they secured funding and approved the award in June.

The current status is most cities will be able to purchase 1 gig service (much more than today) at about 50% of today's market price. Measure M sub regional funds are being applied to pay the capital costs that will form the Fiber Optic ring and pay for connections to 52 buildings in South Bay cities. Bacharach told us Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi is on-board and added \$1.2M in the state budget for the South Bay.

All the Peninsula cities have agreed to be part of the fiber optic ring which should be operational in rolling out service start-ups beginning July 2020. THEN, we need to get assistance from SBCCOG to help our cities raise funding to bring it to us, the residents.

## Announcements

**Rascha Hall** reported that the 2019 California Democratic Party Convention (November 15-17 at the Long Beach Convention Center) needs volunteers to help with tasks ranging from assisting with events and receptions to registration and credentialing. If you can share your time and help, sign up at [this link](#) or call 310-377-7334.

PV Dems member, **Evelyn Granata** brought in a spice jar from Penzeys Spices located in the Village Del Amo at 21217 Hawthorne Blvd. CEO Bill Penzey, a week before Trump's election, said the Republican Party was embracing racism and after the election he said Trump's election embraced racism. Evelyn showed us a Justice Spice jar with clever social issues interwoven in the spice description. She suggested we check them out if we want to update our spices or send a friend a witty gift.

**Reggie Jue**, PV Dems Webmaster, reminded us that Tim Goodrich, Torrance Councilman, is running for re-election and Andrew Block, State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's former field representative, is also running for Torrance City Council. Election day is Tuesday, November 5.



## President's Report By Rascha Hall

First, an update on the Clean Money Campaign bills that I reported on last month. Victory has been declared on four of the five. AB 1217 the Issue Ad Disclose Act passed 65 – 4, SB 47 (that's the one that was authored by our own

State Senator Ben Allen) the Petition Disclose Act passed 31 – 5, and AB 1784 the Secure the Vote Act passed 60 – 12. And, AB201 the Text Message Disclose passed 72 – 11. Only SB636 the Ballot Disclose Act, is still pending.

On Friday, September 20th, the youth of the world, from all 7 continents, held a massive protest asking their elders to fight climate change. They have been led by 16 year old Greta Thunberg from Sweden. She is an amazingly articulate (even in English which is not her primary language) young woman who has been fighting the battle since she was 9 years old. She no longer flies, rides only in electric vehicles, and made her way from Europe to New York by sailboat! She is vegan; she definitely fits the bill as a first class climate change activist. My 17-year old granddaughter attended the Climate Strike rally at Pershing Square and sent me a photo, which I'd like to share with you.



And, fellow RPV residents: Have you been inundated with No on B mailers? A few months back our club hosted employees from Terranea who described the low salaries and oppressive working conditions there. At that meeting we had a vote regarding a measure they were attempting to get on the ballot to address these problems. After hearing their stories, we voted unanimously to support their efforts. They succeeded in getting their requests on the ballot, and that resulted in what is known as [Measure B](#), a mandate to address these problems there and at other venues (like golf courses). Of course, this will cost Terranea and likely Trump, so they are using their considerable clout to prevent Measure B from being voted into law. Take a look at the bottom of any of the No on B mailers, and see who is behind them. Follow the \$\$\$\$! "Vote YES on Measure B! Attend LWV/PVP/San Pedro Sponsored RPV Measure B forum on Oct 17, 7-8:30 pm at Hesse Park in McTaggart Hall. (Thank you Carol Moeller for providing me the Measure B info.)

Finally, I want to note the passing of one of my favorite journalists, Cokie Roberts, who died this week of complications of breast cancer. Cokie Roberts was 75 years old.



### Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

- President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334  
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Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953  
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## Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)

As a member of the Palos Verdes Democrats, you can:

- Meet other Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials, raise funds and work for candidates
- Attend special events and monthly meetings
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national import
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference), and have the opportunity to be elected to the board

**Please send your membership form and check to P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Please fill in all items to ensure that we have your full and correct current information.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  I am a registered Democrat  
Name\* \_\_\_\_\_  I am registered No Party Preference  
\* Fill in both names if applying as a family - two memberships  I am a registered Democrat  
 I am registered No Party Preference

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
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Select One:  Individual \$ 25.00/Year  Family Membership \$40.00/Year  
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Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

- Hospitality  Newsletter  Membership  Publicity  Correspondence  
 Voter Registration  Campaign Work  Website/Facebook  Annual Picnic Committee