

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

November 2019 Newsletter

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

COMING EVENTS

Join us at 2 pm to socialize!

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Nov 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPICS: Overpolicing, CADEM Next Steps

SPEAKERS: Nick Morrow, Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) and Grassroots Dems HQ Exec Dir Tamara Levinson

DECEMBER MEETING

NO MEETING in December ... enjoy the holidays.

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Jan 19th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: January and Beyond

SPEAKERS: Sara Deen, CDP delegate; Linda Sun, Supervising DAG and Superior Court candidate

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November General Meeting

Over-Policing and CA Democrats Next Steps is the theme for our November 17th meeting.

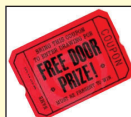
Nick Morrow is a member and speaker for LEAP (Law Enforcement Action Partnership), an international group of current and former criminal justice professionals. LEAP speakers provide their expertise in presentations on Drug Policy Reform, Police Practices, and Drug War issues. Morrow's talk will focus on his particular interest in Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention, and Criminal Justice Reforms, as well as recent proposed DNA legislation.

Morrow, is retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. While there, he worked a variety of assignments including custody, patrol, detective, narcotics and training.

Since his retirement from law enforcement in 1996, Mr. Morrow has worked to build upon his expertise with frequent reviews of law enforcement reports, case studies, scientific research, and interviews with persons accused of drug crimes and DUI. In 2012, he was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court panel of expert witnesses. Since then, he has reviewed hundreds of criminal cases and testified over 140 times in Superior Courts throughout California.

Tamara Levinson, Grassroots Democrats HQ Executive Director, will speak about their mission to defend our win in Congress, flip the senate and take back the White House in 2020. They support groups who want to phone-bank, postcard, and canvas to win these races. They also will share highlights from the weekend's CADEM convention.

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



October General Meeting Report

by Tex Yamada and Ann Nye

Which Water Will You Drink - Desalinated or Potable Reuse from Waste Water and/or Treated Brackish Water? was the theme of our October meeting.

The Desalination debate brought together **West Basin Municipal Water District representative, E.J. Caldwell** speaking about the proposed desalination plant in the South Bay, and **Desal Response Group co-chair, Conner Everts**, speaking against the desalination plant.



E.J. Caldwell



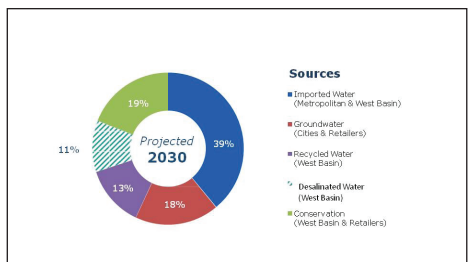
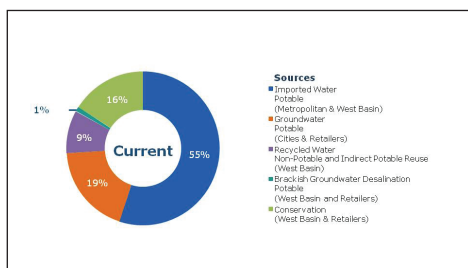
Conner Everts

At [West Basin](#), Caldwell is the Water Policy and Resources Development Manager. His counterpart, Everts, has held a variety of high-level executive and administrative positions in water management groups -- Environmental Water Caucus Southern California Watershed Alliance and Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform.

At the core of the desalination debate is the proposed building of a desalination plant facility in the South Bay. Caldwell showed us how our water supply is presently diversified and how West Basin expects desalination to decrease our dependency on imported water by 2030. Our water supply diversification today and in the future is shown on Page 2 -- photos provided by West Basin.

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The West Basin's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process has been ongoing since August 2015 and is expected to be released by the end of this year. The EIR study involves the science in the implementation of desalination (including impact to marine resources, water quality and energy) to its impact to our public services, air quality and even aesthetics. Once the EIR is released, there still is a final EIR hearing and certification process. The EIR does not address costs.

Although West Basin has high hopes of fulfilling a goal of diversifying our water supply source with ocean water desalination, the reality of high costs and environmental impacts may prove to be too difficult to overcome. In a July 6, 2018 [Daily Breeze](#) article, "Opposition mounts to West Basin ocean water desalination plant in El Segundo, "Producing potable water from seawater is the most expensive way to create fresh water," and "West Basin officials say they are still not sure what the bottom line cost will be."

Everts thinks we need to learn from the Poseidon desalination plant in Carlsbad, CA. The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) 2019 report said the water from the facility was far more costly than expected, and they received 5 citations for violating its wastewater discharge permit, including discharging extremely salty and chemical-laden brine into the sea. According to the [Orange County Breeze](#) (Sept 28, 2019), the SDCWA report failed to mention that in May, Poseidon sold the Carlsbad plant to an international investment corporation for \$1 billion. Poseidon has also proposed a \$1 billion

desalination plant in Huntington Beach which will be decided on by the end of the year.

Everts refers to desalination alternatives as "Smarter Water", or the "4R's": Reduce: Conservation & Climate; Reuse: The Multi-Benefits of Stormwater; Recycle: The Potential of Wastewater; and Restore: Cleaning Up our Groundwater. While none of the alternatives alone offer a surefire solution to replacing imported drinking water, collectively the "4 R's" provide a rational approach to bolster potable water availability. Everts says, "it is time for West Basin to reclaim its leadership in recycled waste water and move ahead with direct potable reuse before investing in ocean desalination." And he notes, "both Los Angeles and Long Beach, after studies and demonstration plants, have decided not to include ocean desalination in their long term water plans."

Invited but unable to attend at the last minute, Jim Kennedy (who spoke to us when running for the Water Replenishment District), provided us this statement on the desal issue, "Desalination is a West Basin solution. It meets their board objective. However, if we look at water policy on a whole at the regional level, there is plenty of waste water and storm water to be reused and distributed if West Basin is willing to cooperate."

UPDATE: On Wednesday, 10/23, West Basin released the much anticipated Final EIR for a potential ocean water desalination facility in El Segundo, CA. It is said the report does not differ significantly from the draft EIR which was released 18 months ago and the findings still say the environmental impacts for the proposed facility are "less than significant." As reported in the Easy Reader, 10/24/19, even though numerous environmental and local cities oppose the facility, their main recourse is to "file lawsuits challenging the validity of the EIR. Only the West Basin board has a vote on the matter."

While the desal debate continues, cities making up West Basin will use funds collected from water conservation Measure W for local green infrastructure projects to expand stormwater capture and build legal greywater projects. West Basin will keep on offering rebates for turf replacement, provide rain water capture barrels and recycle sewage from LA's Hyperion Plant.

RPV City Council Election Nov 5th

Rascha Hall, PV Dems President, introduced Dave Emenhiser and Steve Perestam, two of the five candidates vying for three seats on the RPV City Council in the General Municipal Election November 5th. Emenhiser, the only Democrat in the race, has served on the city's planning commission and financial advisory committees and Perestam, a long time Independent, currently serves on the city's planning commission.



Dave Emenhiser



Steve Perestam

What unites all five candidates is their opposition to the Measure B Hospitality Working Conditions initiative. Measure B applies to "large hospitality employers," including hotels, golf courses, and amusement parks with 50 or more hospitality employees. During the Q&A, both candidates agreed Terranea Resorts provides up to 20% revenue to the city. The discussion ended with an audience member remarking that it seems the Terranea corporation has too much clout on how a city runs its government. For more details on Measure B, please go to Page 3.

In response to a question about what's the most pressing issue facing RPV, both Emenhiser and Perestam identified the Portuguese Bend landslide area as the most pressing problem. Emenhiser and Perestam are the only two candidates supported by the Sierra Club because of their opposition to the hydro-geological plan which may cost the city \$53M to implement. Perestam feels "the key next step is to present a set of alternative landslide implementation strategies. This is not a call for more study, but for a clear defining of alternatives that are phased, with measured results, before proceeding to the next implementation phase." Emenhiser wants to put the plan to a vote and let RPV voters have a say when so much money is at stake. In the meantime, Emenhiser says we need to continue spending \$1M per year to repave PV Drive South.

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Check out [Perestam](#) and [Emenhiser's](#) websites for further information.

VOTE Yes on RPV's Measure B

By Ann Nye

After months of collecting signatures for Measure B, Clergy Laity United for Economic Justice ([CLUE](#)) representatives addressed the RPV City Council in July 2018 to urge them to put Measure B on the 2018 Nov ballot. Instead, the City Council approved putting the measure on the 2019 Nov ballot, saying there wasn't enough time for them to complete their legislative analysis in time for the sample ballot to be printed.

Now a year later and over \$700,000 spent by Terranea on the No on Measure B campaign (as stated in the League of Women Measure B forum by Terri Haack), RPV residents are being bombarded by mailers and print and TV ads to spread confusion on what they are voting for.

As stated in the RPV Impartial Analysis for Measure B, a Yes on Measure B would add a Chapter 5.40, *Hospitality Working Conditions*, to the City of RPV Municipal Code and apply to "large hospitality employers," or operators of a hotel (50+ rooms), golf course, or amusement park, with 50+ hospitality employees. A Yes on Measure B would:

PROVIDE A FAIR WAGE-- Enact a wage floor of \$15/hour, increasing by \$1 year until 2022

PREVENT DEMANDING OVERTIME- Limit Employees' daily work hours absent informed written consent (except in an emergency)

PROVIDE FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS- Limit the daily square footage room cleaners may clean

REDUCE TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION-- Have Employers provide Employees with a non-discounted LA Metro pass or the equivalent credit for vanpool or ridersharing services or provide a vanpool to and from an employee's residence

PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULTS -- Require Employers to provide Employees with no-cost panic buttons for emergencies or when facing threatening behavior

PREVENT EMPLOYER RETALIATION -- Prohibit retaliation by Employers for any action described by this measure

Similar fair labor initiatives have been passed in cities in CA and around the country, including

Long Beach, Santa Monica, New York City and Chicago. Measure B is supported by Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State and the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

Make a difference for workers in your community. VOTE YES on Measure B!



President's Report

By Rascha Hall

This is the last newsletter of this calendar year. After our meeting on Nov. 17th, we will not meet again until Jan. 19, 2020. I cannot help but wonder what will happen between now and then; so much is happening at warp speed. Will Donald Trump be impeached? Will he bring Mike Pence down with him? As Rachel Maddow says, "stay tuned to this space." 2020 will be a big year for us. We have to work hard to hold on to our Congressional gains, to take back the Senate, and above all, to win back the White House. You can do your part. Every Tuesday, our former president, Lynn Bommer, leads a carpool to Orange County to register new Democrats and, as their campaigns fire up, to walk precincts for the candidates. You can be part of this group. We don't have a Senate race in California next year, but you can help phone bank to Kentucky to help defeat Mitch McConnell, or to Arizona, to help Mark Kelly win the Senate seat there. After the Democrats choose a candidate from our incredibly well qualified field of candidates, we should all work hard to elect him/her by phone banking, walking precincts, stuffing envelopes, by doing whatever we're called on to do.

Enough preaching to the choir. I know you will all do your part. I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. May 2020 be filled with peace, happiness, good health, and in the end, a new administration in the White House.

What an Honor to See and Hear Four CA South Bay Democrat Leaders Speak at the PVP Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

By Ann Nye

Everyone was surprised that the schedules of **Congressman Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn** all aligned to have them seated at the same podium on Oct 11th at the PVE Golf Club.

Here are some of the highlights.

Ted Lieu - as a computer science major, he says he's a "recovering" computer scientist. Aerospace - Aerospace companies need help to hire more employees with degrees. Transportation - proud we're extending light rail to LAX and Green Line in the South Bay and commented that Trump has backed away from his infrastructure program because he feels he can't get Republican support. Gun Violence Prevention - need to close the BIG loophole in background checks.

Ben Allen - Disclosure for voting bill is his high priority - need to know who's paying for signature collection. Some people getting signatures are getting paid \$6/signature and don't even know what's on the petition. Waste management - need to set goals for waste reduction with industry. Need "more sustainable packaging ... city governments are spending more on cleaning up litter than reducing waste." Housing - SA1 is a good bill and they were able to collaborate with realtors to get it passed.

Al Muratsuchi - Got a big laugh when he said, "With Ted Lieu on TV so much, I'm always getting mistaken for Ted, and I don't know why." He's proud to be a Cal Bear and UCLA grad. Wants more CA residents to be admitted to CA colleges. Wants more funding for public schools. Worked on AB 245 to create a CA Aerospace Commission to keep building up Aerospace. He made a joke that he got AB 308, a tax cut bill, signed for businesses owned by deployed military. And then got a bigger laugh when he asked if anyone in the room benefited from his tax cut (obviously not since they're in the room and not deployed.)

Janice Hahn - need to complete our mass public transportation projects by the 2028 Olympics. Says homelessness is the biggest issue on her plate and it "needs to be declared a State Emergency!" She said, even though we've provided more housing, more people are falling into homelessness. We need to build enough shelters and transition housing. Currently the county is working with hotels to temporarily house the homeless.

The anticipated question to Ted Lieu was, "Are the Impeachment Hearings a Distraction?" Ted replied the House has passed many bi-partisan bills, BUT the Senate isn't voting on any of them. "Impeachment is a last option."



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

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President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

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Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650

Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526

Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

Palos Verdes Democrats

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

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 _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

E-mail Address _____

Select One: ☐ Individual \$ 25.00/Year ☐ Family Membership \$40.00/Year

☐ Young Adult \$10.00/Year **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**

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