

League of Women Voters – Placer County
General Meeting
Board of Supervisors Chambers
175 Fulweiller Street
Auburn, CA 95603

October 3, 2013

- Called to order at 10:30am by President Randi Swisley.
- Agenda and Minutes approved.
- New members Karen Bell-Ling, Louis Ling and Sheila Reynolds acknowledged and welcomed.
- Lynne Roberts and the Voter Registration committee acknowledged for their work on voter registration and promotional materials.
- An additional Affordable Care Act forum with multiple presenters announced for October 29th at 10:00am-12:00pm at the Rocklin Library.
- Next General Meeting of the LWVPC will be at Max's, 110 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, at 11:30am and will feature Bill Ryland, Administrator of Kiononia Group Homes, a refuge for troubled youth in Loomis.
- Featured speaker introduced: David Boesch, Placer County Executive Officer.

David Boesch was appointed Placer County Executive Officer in June, 2012, by the Board of Supervisors, to whom he answers. Mr. Boesch started his career in New Hampshire and made his way to California and has thirty-five years of experience. He is responsible for all County personnel appointments (a few elected and other officials are excepted).

He treated the audience to a history of the Domes (County offices location), a Buckminster Fuller concept, and gave a brief background of the political and practical County purpose: Created during the Gold Rush as one of thirteen charter counties out of fifty-eight, each to serve as an arm of state government.

Geographically, Placer is approximately 1,500 square miles in area with a population of some 360,000. Forty percent of Lake Tahoe is in Placer County. There are five County supervisors, each of whom represents some 72,000 residents. There are about 2,700 County employees with a County budget of 800 million dollars and numerous special districts. Two thirds of residents are in cities or towns with the balance in unincorporated areas.

Mr. Boesch addressed the "New Economy" that affects the County's discretionary revenue: County receives an average of 18¢ per property tax dollar and real estate values declined some 25-30% during the recent financial crisis. We are in an era of austerity. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) took early action to slow increased costs, but there will still be a revenue gap for three to five years.

The Placer County Water Authority (PCWA) was established by the State legislature in 1957. In 1961 voters made it a separate County entity and in 1975 the BOS created an independent Board of Directors representing the same districts as the BOS and elected for four-year terms. PCWA is separate from County oversight and is answerable and report to voters and rate payers. Dave Brenninger is the current chairman.

A 50-year license for dams granted to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission expired in May 2013. A Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was created with County and PCWA each having two members on the Board of Directors and now owning the hydroelectric facilities, although contracted with PG&E for five years. The JPA's first priority is to retire some \$70 million in bonds, the second priority is to catch up on PG&E's deferred maintenance and build a "nest egg" for continued maintenance. Any net revenues go to reserves.

Mr. Boesch also addressed land use, specifically the plans for North Auburn and the De Witt center teardown which includes long-range planning for County land needs, as well as what's available for non-profit and commercial use. The proposed Costco lease includes terms recalculable at market rate and property taxes paid by Costco, although County retains property ownership.

As part of his presentation Mr. Boesch provided handouts with information about various county agencies, as well as "Spotlight on Critical Issues", detailing the County priorities. He also announced a County website to be rolled out in a month or so to further community outreach.

- At 11:45am Randi Swisley presented Aggie Glover with her prize for best LWVPC motto. An audience member suggested video-taping all future meetings.
- Adjourned at 11:47am.