



Channel **VOTER**

serving South Santa Barbara County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC. • 328 A East Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>

Vol. 69, No. 7, April 2007



League Ph/Fax: 965-2422 • Membership Director, Joanie Jones • President, Sheila Kamhi

APRIL COMMUNITY FORUM: An Independent Judiciary

Wednesday, April 18, 12:15 to 2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, De La Vina & Victoria Streets

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On April 18 at the Community Forum we will be discussing one of the most perplexing decisions we make on Election Day: we choose from that long list of unknown judicial candidates. Perhaps we decide to forget the whole section. Yet one of the primary topics at the national LWV convention last May was “Promoting an Independent Judiciary, safeguarding the U.S. Constitution.” As the election of judges becomes more politicized, the nation runs a greater danger of becoming less just. The topic is part of an on-going LWVUS program dedicated to increasing citizen understanding of the importance of our nation’s system of separation of powers and the need for protecting an independent judiciary. I am glad we have time to bring this discussion before the community.

We have invited **Dr. David Lawrence** of the Westmont College Political Science Department to speak about how judges are chosen in California and around the country. What are the implications of current trends in choosing our judges? Former Santa Barbara County judge,

Zel Canter, is coming from Santa Maria to speak of his experiences and observations in the judicial system and what he sees happening. What changes, if any, does he see as needed to keep the judicial system impartial? What is the best way to choose a competent judge? By appointment? Election? Merit selection? Our third speaker is **Cristi Michelon**, Vice-President of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers and a member of the Board of Governors of California Women Lawyers and of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association. It will be important to have her input on the role of attorneys and the local bar in recommending the appointment of judges.

We have a DVD on the topic of how judges are selected. It was made at the LWVUS convention last May and it is fantastic. If there is interest, and someone has a room large enough, perhaps we can have a special viewing meeting—or perhaps we can get more copies to lend out to those who are interested. This is a topic that deserves serious consideration.

Sheila Kamhi, President

APRIL DISCUSSION UNITS: Let’s Worry About California Delta & Levees

If all politics is local, surely all California water problems are local. April units will discuss problems in the California Delta. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area is the focus of two ongoing studies. The Public Policy Institute has issued a 300-page discussion on the topic. The other group is one appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

The Delta furnishes two out of three Californians with fresh water, including residents of Santa Barbara County. The Institute says that there is no one solution, but presents options that would require more research. The governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force is to look into Delta fixes that can be implemented by the end of the year.

The League’s discussion, led by representatives from the Water Committee, will primarily focus on the options of the Public Policy Institute and possible solutions as outlined in the “Conclusions” and “Recommendations” sections of the report. We will also talk about the funding that has been voted in recent bond measures and where that money will probably be spent.

Come to the unit meetings to learn more about these issues and see what might be done to prevent a failure of the levees and sea water intrusion into the Delta area, which everyone knows is earthquake-prone.

Pat Shewczyk, Co-Chair, Water Committee

From the President's Desk...

April is the time of year when your Board prepares for the end of one year and the beginning of the next year. Right now, we are working on the Annual Garden Party. It will be held on May 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the campus of QAD, on Ortega Hill Road in Summerland overlooking the ocean. The directors of this software company have generously permitted us to use their facility with its large parking lot, beautiful green lawns, and indoor facilities.

Our choice of honorees this year is a bit unusual. We have decided to honor two couples who have given their time and energy to both our League and the community. Alphabetically, the first couple is Carole and Bill Marks who work so hard for Health Care for All; the second is Don and Jan O'Dowd who have managed both the Mentor program and the Adopt-a-Poll program. There is more to say, but I do not have enough space here.

We are also working on the 2007 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, June 9, at the Holiday Inn. The guest speaker will be announced in a later *Voter*. The business meeting will involve voting for a



new board for the 2007-2008 year and reviewing the past year, together with the opportunity to tell your Board what you want to see happen next year.

Between these two events, the League of Women Voters of California will be holding its convention on May 18-20 in Bakersfield. Our League is entitled to six delegates, plus the president as an additional delegate.

Registration, including most meals, is \$300, which our League can pay for each delegate. There may be money left that can be divided for hotel, transportation, or other expenses—we will decide when we know how many members wish to go to the convention. Workshops will include Abolishing the Death Penalty, Health System Reform, and various other subjects. It is usually an exciting event. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

Please let me know also, if you can volunteer to help either at the Annual Meeting or the Garden Party. Please.

Sheila Kamhi, President

ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM AT THE DAVIS CENTER

The Louise Lowry Davis Center is getting 10 Assisted Listening System (ALS) devices for meetings there. The system is connected to the Public Address system in the room where we meet. There will be training before anyone can use them, and they will not be ready until April. However, if any members are interested, please phone me (682-0757), and I will see about what the various steps are in setting this up.

SANTA BARBARA CITY ELECTION REFORM

For more than a year the City of Santa Barbara has been considering ways to improve its elections. The effort now is focused on three projects. Sometime in mid-April they will be brought from the Ordinance Committee (Iya Falcon, Brian Barnwell, Grant House) to the whole city council. These plans are not yet firm.

The first of these is tentatively named "Video Voter." It's goal is to give all candidates free and equal time on television. League members attended a city-directed committee meeting recently with representatives of Cox Channels 21 and 17, the Santa Barbara City TV station, and others who would be involved in TV production and distribution. The current plan is to give all candidates the same amount of time, have each candidate shown from the chest up, have each candidate say whatever they choose as long as it does not criticize another candidate, etc. We will keep you informed of further developments. The City of Santa Barbara is well aware of our candidate forums and wants them to be part of the video system.

The second subject that was covered by the Ordinance Committee was Campaign Finance Reform. Actually, the committee concluded that the existing campaign regula-

(Continued on page 3)

Linda Krop of the Environmental Defense Center, Doug Anthony of Santa Barbara County's Energy Division, and Carla Frisk of Get Oil Out spoke at our March Community Forum on energy developments proposed along our coastline.

Photo credit: Tom Heck.



The Channel Voter is published eight times a year, monthly except for January, June, July, and August, by the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters, 328A E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE REFORM EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Want to make sense of what's going on with universal health care reform and how you can best contribute? A OneCareNow Advocacy Training for local activists will take place (see "Calendar" p. 8) at the Unitarian Church on Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Not only is the training valuable for advocates speaking to groups or writing personal letters or letters to the editor, it is valuable for individuals wishing to be clear and confident about this issue and able to spread the word to family, friends, and colleagues. League members are encouraged to attend and to take advantage of the rich and growing number of resources available.

In response to questions raised at recent meetings and video events, here are some pertinent highlights to be found on important health care reform Web sites: www.lwvc.org: Action and Advocacy.

www.healthcareforall.org: (Top menu bar) "Blog"/Public Health Insurance in other countries.

www.onecarenow.org: Information regarding the campaign for universal healthcare and how to help.

Meanwhile, the LWVC Web site continues to develop and contribute educational materials to the OneCareNow campaign: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ being updated to reflect changes in the new SB 840); a cameo of LWVC President Jackie Jacobberger speaking of the League endorsement of SB 840 newly inserted in the revised OneCareNow DVD used in video events, and a



Statement of Healthcare Reform Principles. While the League continues to be strongly focused on supporting a comprehensive, single payer, universal health care plan, these principles will enable the League to comment at hearings on what the League can or cannot support, and to measure and support other proposals without coming down negatively too early on incremental measures that might lead to ultimate reform.

Many stakeholder associations, in addition to the League, are defining their stance in the health care reform movement with their own statements of principles: The Institute of Medicine (IOM), California Labor Federation, California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), AFL-CIO, Health Access. The LWVC Health Committee has been analyzing these Statements of Principles and other policy positions and developing materials for speakers to outreach successfully to targeted communities such as business, health care, and seniors.

Let us all choose one or more OneCareNow opportunities to fulfill the League's strong mission to bring about vital changes to health care policy thru education and advocacy. Just making a massive visible presence of support is important, e.g. on Tuesday, April 24, at 9 a.m., at the public comment period at the County Board of Supervisors when the OneCareNow campaign activists will highlight "Cover the Uninsured Week." The time is ripe for reform!

Carole Marks, Healthcare Committee



RIGHT TO KNOW

Did you know that the League office is not cleaned by a cleaning service? We thank those who have volunteered in the past. As with most volunteer activities, more volunteers are needed!

Santa Barbara City Election Reform *(Continued from page 2)*

tions and the requirements of state law were adequate. They are suggesting a voluntary expenditure ceiling of \$50,000 for each candidate. They are greatly interested in strengthening campaign funding disclosure by independent committees or political action committees, as well as of individual contributions. It is important to disclose last-minute information on donations and mailings to the public as soon as possible before the election. A technical system may not be simple to put in place.

The third subject is that of a "stand alone" election. Santa Barbara City is the only entity to have its election in November of odd-numbered years. The County Elections Board wants a good deal of money to run the election. The city and county are talking about costs. Santa Barbara City is considering running the election without the county, but they have no experience and would have to pay for trainers, equipment, etc. It would be less than Santa Barbara County is now asking. Ventura County runs a single election for the City of Ventura for \$60,000. On the other hand, Burbank has been doing "mail-in" elections. They operate in much the same way as absentee ballots. There are, however, designated stations where the voter can bring the ballot in person. This will also have to be debated by the full Santa Barbara City Council.

Sheila Kamhi, President

THE UPPER STATE STREET STUDY IS HERE!

The Upper State Street Study Report is now available. Hard copies should be available at the Santa Barbara City Planning Division or on the city Web page. Directions for obtaining it are given below.

Many League members participated in the Walking Tour and public workshops relating to the planning for Upper State Street. Whether you attended or not, you will want to participate in the Planning Commission hearing on Thursday, April 12, at the City Hall Council Chambers. The city council public hearing will follow on Tuesday, May 8, at the same location in City Hall. Other bodies will also conduct hearings on this report, and we have listed all the hearings in the box below, so that members with a special interest can attend any of them. The number of hearings scheduled indicates that this is a major concern of the city and of the public, which uses Upper State Street so heavily.

Here are the three general recommendations of the study:

1. **Maintain and enhance the unique character of Upper State Street, including the public streetscape, open space, creeks, views, site design, and building aesthetics.** Leaguers will recognize that all of these are important elements, but the implementation of each one is what matters.
2. **Improve traffic, circulation, pedestrian and**

bicycle connectivity, and parking.

3. **Preserve longer-range future improvement opportunities.** This is a fascinating section, with possible drastic changes to La Cumbre Plaza.

The League has consistently supported maintaining the requirements of the S-D-2 overlay zone set up for this area in 1979, and reviewed in 1992. Those regulations acknowledged that this is a special area, with limited traffic capacity. That is more true today than it was in 1979, with the large increases in car traffic through the area.

Although the S-D-2 zone has the most stringent height limitations in the city, we believe that they should be even more restrictive on the north side of Upper State Street, in order to preserve the marvelous views of the mountains. Be sure to read the section on Views, and consider the value of a two-story height limit here.

Another section that merits attention is the section on Setbacks. The League fully supports the existing S-D-2 standards, and thinks that they should be enforced on all properties except certain areas of the East Subarea, where there never have been setbacks, but the buildings are one story high. We also support providing the full parking spaces required for all projects in the city.

For Public Comments:

By **Wednesday, April 4, 2007** for written comments on the study, address your comments to:

Beatriz Ramirez - City Planning Division,
P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102.

We encourage you to submit your personal comments.

* * *

To learn when the Upper State Street Study will appear on any of the following agendas, call Beatriz Ramirez at 564-5470.

Monday, April 2, beginning at 3 p.m. Architectural Board of Review hearing in the David Gebhard meeting room at 630 Garden Street.

Tuesday, April 10, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Metropolitan Transit District Board at the MTD offices, 550 Olive St.

Thursday, April 12, beginning at 1 p.m. Planning Commission hearing in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Tuesday, May 8, beginning at 2 p.m. City Council hearing in City Hall Council Chambers.

REMINDER OF IMPORTANT DATES:

May 6 (Sunday) - Garden Party,

May 18 - 20 - LWVC Convention in Bakersfield

June 9 (Saturday) - Annual Meeting.

Please refer to the President's letter on page 2 for details.

How to access the study:

1. Download it from the city Web page, www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov (under Quick Links, click on Major Planning Efforts and Upper State Street Study).
2. A copy may be picked up at the City Planning Division office at 630 Garden St. We suggest that you call first to make sure they have copies. The phone number is 564-5470.
3. The associated Upper State Street Traffic, Circulation, and Parking Study is also available on the Web page and at the Planning Division office.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Director

	Washington Mutual HOME LOANS	
Catherine Dishion Senior Loan Consultant		
Santa Barbara Home Loan Center 1330 State St.. Santa Barbara, CA 93101		
	phone 805.560-7351 fax 805.884.8453	
	catherine.dishion@wamu.net	

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE FUTURE OF SANTA BARBARA?

The Santa Barbara General Plan Update is now about to begin and has a brand new name “Plan Santa Barbara” instead of “Santa Barbara 2030.” This general plan update is very important and we have been asked to make sure everyone knows about the Community Workshops that are planned to develop a Community Vision, so please SAVE A DATE. The same material will be presented at different days, times and locations, so please pick one of the following and plan to attend (locations to be announced later):

Wednesday evening, **June 13**

Saturday, **June 18**

Wednesday evening **June 27**

Thursday evening, **June 28**

In planning for our future, the following goals were set forth by the City of Santa Barbara in March 2005:

- Live within resources
- Maintain unique character
- Ensure housing opportunities
- Provide adequate services
- Provide convenient transportation
- Encourage public involvement
- Ensure strong economy
- Develop environmentally sustainable policies
- Advance regional thinking

The GP Update started with the publication of “Conditions, Trends and Issues Report” in 2005. The Santa Barbara City Council set up an Outreach Committee, but the effort was delayed because staff was redirected to the Upper State Street Study. Now both the public and the

city are ready to get back on track. The city is about to kick off a media campaign, mail a community-wide brochure, and use Channel 18 for getting information out. Important materials will be posted on the city Web page.

If you want to get a head start and be prepared, think about the following questions and topics:

- How much additional commercial development does Santa Barbara need?
- How much housing do we need and where should it go?
- How can we provide local housing for our workforce?
- What transportation alternatives should we pursue?
- How do we improve the look and livability of our city?
- How do we reduce energy use, encourage green building, and protect water quality?
- What type of economic development should we encourage?
- What issues should be dealt with on a regional level?
- Are there other important questions you believe should be addressed?

After the initial summer Community Workshops, a summary report will be developed and staff will generate policy options. This will be followed by community forums and a series of Policy Options Workshops in the fall. The League, the Allied Neighborhood Association, and the Citizens Planning Association have been meeting with staff in order to make suggestions on this process. If you have any questions, let me know by calling me at 966-0536.

Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant

MAJOR GOLETA PLANNING ALERT

The three winners in the Goleta City Council race last November—Bennett, Onnen, and Aceves—sometimes said that they would like to make some changes to the just adopted General Plan of the city. Last month Goleta saw what they meant. On March 5, the council requested a review of 78 substantive changes to the General Plan, which could change the intent of the plan drastically.

Testimony from land owners, their attorneys, and developers dominated the long March 5 meeting. Many of the speakers demanded additional changes that they wanted to allow more development of their property. The council initiated action on all 78 original changes, and added all of those requested from the audience. Staff is expected to return with analysis of the now over 100 changes by a hearing on April 16. At that hearing the League protested both the process and the content of the proposed changes. We encourage anyone concerned about the future of General Plans in general, or Goleta’s in particular, to come to that hearing and offer personal comments.

On March 19, there were 24 more suggested areas of change to the Design Review Board, and these were wanted “sooner rather than later.” Several of those were rejected following a great deal of testimony from the general public. The Design Review Board still exists, although its role has been somewhat reduced. The League again opposed this process.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Director



FINISHING YOUR TAXES?

As you prepare your federal taxes in the coming weeks, be sure to support the League’s mission by checking the box in support of presidential public financing.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for a policy wonk, who does not think the topic of process improvements is a big yawn. All of the governmental entities we follow, Santa Barbara County and the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, are looking for ways to improve the planning (or development) process and make it more efficient and streamlined. While efficiency is generally a good thing—we all want notification and information available in a timely manner and in a format we can understand—it raises the question of when this begins to infringe on the public's right to know and participate in the process. When does efficiency become a Trojan horse for policy changes that undermine our ability to comment on and fight bad projects?

What does this job involve? Reading and attending some City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta, and Santa Barbara County meetings. For a starter, I need someone to go with me to the county's Process Improvement meetings on 4th Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. at Pea Soup Anderson's in Buellton. Any takers? If you are still awake and interested, please call Cathie at 966-0536 or e-mail me at mccammon@cox.net.

Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant

BULBS IN A NEW LIGHT

Compact fluorescent light bulbs cost less than they used to and produce a more natural light.

Today's energy-efficient light bulb has undergone a makeover. Once criticized as expensive, slow to power up, blue in tone, and bulky in shape, many compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are now indistinguishable from standard incandescents. The price has come down tremendously from the past, and they now cast a more natural light. And now, you can buy them for most any fixture in the house.

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with one that meets the federal government's Energy Star guidelines, it would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



There is a trade-off, however: For all their progress, energy-efficient bulbs do take more time to ramp up compared with the power of incandescents. And some look more "fluorescent" than others. There are wattage conversion charts to decipher — for example, the packaging might say it's a 13-watt bulb, but also that it performs as brightly as a 60-watt incandescent. Sometimes, the bulb might look like a CFL, but it's really an incandescent marked as "energy saving."

To keep it simple, look for the federal government's "Energy Star" label on the packaging. That means the bulb must meet certain quality requirements, such as turning on instantly, making no sound, and falling within a warm color range, or be otherwise labeled as providing cooler color tones.

Excerpted from an article in the Saint Paul (MN) Pioneer Press

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

I am pleased to announce what I call a blue ribbon committee for the Santa Barbara League Immigration Study (hereafter dubbed the LIS): Carmela Galvez, Janet Graham, Anne Heck, Sheila Kamhi, Bev King, and Pat Shewczyk.

The LIS timeline is as follows:

September 2006 - January 2008: Local Leagues educate themselves about immigration issues.

September 1, 2007: LWVUS distributes a Leaders Guide that includes consensus questions.

February 1, 2008: Deadline for consensus forms.

February 1 - March 20, 2008: LWVUS formulates our position.

March or April 2008: LWVUS Board adopts our position.

We have held a kick-off community forum, and our first committee meeting will be held on April 3 at 1:00 p.m. in a meeting room at Samarkand. One of our first subjects of discussion concerns the values needed in immigration policies. The Santa Maria League will be holding a public forum on this topic in late April. Anyone who wishes to go along with me should let me know, by phone (898-0240) or e-mail (33155@cox.net).

Jessica Dean, Chair, Immigration Study

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and friends**
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AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND UNIFORM RULES UPDATE VICTORY!

The League previously was concerned that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors was not going to include in the Uniform Rules Update EIR a cumulative impacts section that took into account all of the impacts of the 20-plus policy initiatives affecting agricultural lands. Well, after it became clear that Supervisor Firestone had a conflict of interest and could not vote to approve the original Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the county did an "about face" and has decided to do a revised EIR that includes all of the cumulative impacts of the 20-plus items. They also are going to include impacts of major projects already underway, and they may contact the cities to see if they have large projects with impacts that should be

taken into account. Many thanks to the Environmental Defense Center for calling attention to Supervisor Firestone's conflict of interest and for putting us in a much better place than we were in December. As a result of public participation and pressure we have forced the county to do a revised EIR. The county held a Saturday workshop on March 10, at which the public addressed what they want in the EIR. The League was represented. So far we consider this a victory, but we will have to wait until June to analyze the county's finished product.

Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA REFERENDUM POSSIBLE IN 2008

League members should watch for news of signature gathering for a ballot measure to control the heights of buildings in the Pueblo Viejo area of the City of Santa Barbara. In response to the negative public reaction to the two new enormous buildings on Chapala Street, some planning commission and city council members have decided to put a control measure on the ballot to limit heights in the Pueblo Viejo area to 40 feet, which would allow three stories. The League has just begun consideration of this measure, but it would appear to fit in perfectly with our Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance support. This historic district covers much of the city outside of the downtown business area, where buildings up to 60 feet in height are allowed.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Director



If you know someone who might be interested in the League, please pass along this application:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$60*
- Second member in same household \$30
- Student \$30
- Please send me more information about League
- I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 A E. Carrillo St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Discounted dues are available for special circumstances. Contract Joanie Jones - 683-1937.*

CALENDAR - APRIL 2007

Discussion Units: California's Delta and Levees

- 3 Tuesday **Immigration Study Committee:** 1 p.m. Samarkand Retirement Community. Call Jessica Dean, 898-0240.
- 3 Tuesday **Dinner Unit:** 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Margaret Roff, 685-4839.
- 4 Wednesday **Carpinteria Unit:** 12:30-2 p.m. Singing Springs Condominiums Recreation Room, 5455 8th St., Carpinteria. Contact: Barbara Godley, 969-9942. Brown bag lunch.
- 4 Wednesday **Evening Unit:** 7:30 p.m. Home of Sheila Kamhi, 1040 Portesuello, 682-0757.
- 11 Wednesday **Afternoon Unit:** 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. Contact: Marjorie Nefstead, 964-0886.
- 13 Friday **Board Meeting:** 10:00 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.
- 16 Monday *Channel Voter* deadline for May issue.
- 18 Wednesday **Community Forum:** "An Independent Judiciary." 12:15-2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets. Speakers will include: **Dr. David Lawrence, Judge Zel Canter, and Cristi Michelin.** Brown bag lunch. Cookies and drinks provided.
- 21 Saturday **OneCareNow Advocacy Training for Universal Health Care:** 10 a.m.-12 noon. Issues, legislation, framing the message, OCN campaign. Unitarian Church, Blake Lounge. 1535 Santa Barbara Street (at Arrellaga). Call Carole Marks: 682-1228.
- 22 Sunday **Earth Day:** "Global Warming: Change Begins with Learning." 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens.



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Santa Barbara, CA
Permit No. 120

President: Sheila Kamhi, 682-0757
Voter Editor: Anne Heck, 687-1632
Circulation: Herb Linville, 898-1259
Production: Wordesigns, 963-4883
314 E. Carrillo, #7
S.B., CA 93101

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