



NEWSLETTER November, 2007

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October Meeting Agenda

IBEW Hall

Monday, Nov. 19, 2007

7:00 meet and greet

7:30 business meeting

Committee Reports

Financial Report – Jim

New Business

- Sponsoring events process
- Proposed by-law changes
 - Amendment process
 - Changes in dues
- Think about 2008 officers
- Sign up for Dec. 10 potluck

8:00 Speaker:

Jerry Okendo, attorney affiliated with both ACLU and League of United Latin American Citizens

Q&A – discussion

Adjourn

Our thanks

**To the IBEW
For providing space for us and
other issue oriented community
groups to meet.**

Cuff Links by Acuff

You must have received the colorful flyer from Zone 7. It was the second one within the last few months with essentially the same message, voluntarily cut water use by 10% and look for higher rates. Local news sources also picked up the message after the Delta pumps slowed way down so there is not much excuse for not knowing how the water situation will affect us in the Tri-Valley. This time Zone 7 is suggesting we capture rainwater for our landscaping. That's serious, not just turn the tap off when brushing teeth.

Our colleague, Rich Halket, who serves on the DSRSD Board confirmed that the crunch is coming and already the local cities are using recycled water in parks and golf courses. The catch is that not all public parks have pipelines that can distribute recycled water. That is a reconfiguration expense yet to be faced.

The **NY Times Magazine** had a feature story a few weeks ago about the water crisis in the West. The story described the Colorado River system and the interstate and international stream compact that depends on it. Seven states in the US and Mexico use the water from the Colorado. Every drop is allocated.

The story didn't mention the granddaddy of all water allocation systems, the Rio Grande. That river serves five states in the US and Mexico. Such water agreements began with New Mexico because as a Spanish territory, New Mexico inherited Spanish water law. Until recently, it was the only state that had comprehensive water law.

Both rivers arise in Colorado in the mountains and both depend on the snow pack. Both water sharing agreements were developed in the '20s and that period happened to be a wet cycle so the amounts allocated were based on stream flows at that time. There has been a continuous reduction in water amounts since that time so both water compacts have build up huge water debts along the way. Guess who ends up with the real short end of the stick.

Quick Calendar

October /November film at the IBEW, Dec. 8, 7 PM. The film is still under consideration. Look for Paulette Kenyon's announcement.

Progressive Book Club, at the Livermore Library, Tues, Nov. 27, 7 PM, **The European Dream**, by Jeremy Rifkin

The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club presents progressive journalist and author David Sirota, Nov. 29, 6 PM at the Humanist Hall, Oakland.

Democratic Lawyers Club, Fall Social featuring Barbara Lee, Nov. 16, 6-8 PM, see TVDC calendar page for details.

2008 Membership Form

Mail to:

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

P.O. Box 1186

Pleasanton, CA 94588

\$30 household memberships

\$20 individual membership

\$10 student/ senior

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I know a lot of this because I used to live next door to the NM state engineer and two of my good friends specialized in water law (one of whom has been in continuous litigation on one case for 40 years, that's how complicated it gets.) Also one of the early friends of my newspaper in NM was a member of the Isleta Pueblo and was one of the first Native Americans to graduate from the University of NM and was one of the members of that first interstate stream compact negotiating team. He had lots of stories to share. In fact the western water wars are a rich mine of stories.

But the stories and the history ought not cloud the reality, the volume of water our lives and the lives of every living thing depend on is shrinking. We must find ways to accommodate life with seriously reduced water. That means all of us, farmers, urban and suburbanites, developers, city planners, lawmakers and bankers. Neither conservation nor technology can solve the problem alone. We have to reorient our thinking to accept and appreciate the land as it is, not as we would have it be.

Humanity has a rich and ancient history with arid and desert land. The greatest advances in human culture have come from the desert, cities, irrigation, writing, and mathematics to name a few. Besides, dry landscape makes mountains, seashores and river valleys so much more precious.

A Message from TVDC President Ellis Goldberg

2008 will be a very interesting year. Baby boomers are starting to reach retirement age and are realizing they have an opportunity to do something beyond earning a living. They finally have the chance to make a difference and change the world for the better. For many of us TVDC is a vehicle for making a difference.

TVDC is on the Frontline for two contentious races, AD 15 & CD 11. With your help on those who choose to join us TVDC will make a big difference in those races as well as local and state races. What can you do? Run for TVDC office and help lead the effort. Introduce your friends who are looking for meaningful to TVDC and our activities.

Over the coming months we will be gearing up for the elections, with a campaign office opening in the weeks before. We have the responsibility for organizing the door to door campaign that wins elections.

From: Tri-Valley Democratic Club
P.O. Box 11886
Pleasanton CA 94588

To:

