

## CALL FOR ALTERNATE LWV REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CONTRA COSTA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION

The current representative (from the Diablo Valley league is Leslie Stewart. Her description of what she does is below and the county's description of the position follows. If you have questions, Leslie can be reached at her email address: <lwvleslie@gmail.com>.

"The Commission meets once a month on the fourth Thursday from 4-6 pm at the County Connection building just off Hwy 4 in North Concord. It's not transit-accessible -- it's not really walkable from North Concord BART. The subcommittee that I sit on meets once a month on the second Friday from 10-noon at the county health clinic in North Richmond -- not sure about transit there. The accessibility is what has killed West County participation from the start.

"The time commitment is really only attending the meetings. The role of the LWV representative is primarily to wear our "good government" hat, look to see that no one interest dominates the Commission, and contribute where possible to policy discussions. It helps to know something about science but that isn't necessary -- I learned as I went and still don't understand some of what is presented and discussed. That's OK -- they need someone to represent the layman's view.

"The need for an alternate is because the HMC structure requires a representative for the seat to attend Commission (not subcommittee meetings) in order to vote -- missing more than six meetings in a row means you can't vote at the next meeting you attend. We had one primary member whose job kept her from attending for several years (!) but because her alternate attended, she was able to come back for a critical vote and cast a vote. My attendance record is pretty good, but I'd like to have someone interested and informed who will come to subcommittee meetings (encouraged for all alternates) and take my place if I get ill, need to be at work, or go on vacation."