

**The Fresno County Green Party
Welcomes You**

**The Green Party of California General Assembly
May 3 – 5, 2002**

Registration and Delegates 2
General Assembly Schedule 3
Working Group / Standing Committee Sessions 4
Ratification of L.A. Minutes 6
Consent Calendar Items 6
Report of GPCA Apportionment Working Group 11
Discussion – Regional Rep Selection 14
Proposal – Communications Standing Committee 16
Proposal – GPCA Budget 17
Proposal – Affirm Delegates to GPUS 22
Report – Information Technology Committee 23
Proposal – Removal From Office 26
Election – CC At-Large Reps 28
Proposal – Platform Updates 30
Delegates To The May 2002 State Plenary 56
Meeting Logistics 57

Registration and Delegates

Please register for the plenary in advance at <http://www.cagreens.org/registration/>. If you don't have access to the web, go to your local public library and ask them to help you register. If online registration is not practical for you, contact the person in the Payment Instructions below. If you have special needs please be sure to note them when registering. After registering online, follow the payment instructions below.

Please register and send payment as early as possible.

Online registration will close on Friday, May 3 at 9PM.

If you would like to order a Fresno County Green Party T-shirt for \$15.00, note this as a “special need” when registering.

Delegate Lists

Counties are required to submit their list of delegates (and alternates) to the General Assembly. Submit this at <http://www.cagreens.org/registration/delegates.html>. Please designate one person from your county to submit the official delegate list via our secure server by logging in at the URL above. Each delegate must register for the plenary before they can be confirmed as an official delegate by their county. If you have problems, please contact delegates@cagreens.org. The delegate allocation for this meeting is on [page 56](#).

Online delegate list submission will close on Friday, May 3 at 9PM.

Meeting Logistics

Please see [page 57](#) for meeting locations and transportation and housing information.

Payment

Registration for the General Assembly includes breakfast and lunch.

\$35 for the General Assembly

\$15 for the Saturday night event (includes finger food buffet, no-host bar and entertainment)

Send payment to:

Larry Mullen
4422 N. Prospect
Fresno, CA 93722

Payable to: Fresno County Green Party

Go Grizzlies

The Fresno Grizzlies triple-A baseball team will be playing in their new stadium on the Friday evening.

<http://www.fresnogrizzlies.com/>

General Assembly Schedule

Time	Subject	Location
Friday 5/3/2002		
3:30PM - 6PM	IT Meeting	Underground Gardens
6:30PM - 7:30PM	CC Dinner	
7:30PM - 9:30PM	GPCA - CC Meeting	
Saturday 5/4/2002		
8AM - 9AM	Breakfast	Fresno High School
8:40AM - 9AM	New Delegate Orientation	
9AM - 9:10AM	Welcome/Opening Ceremony	
9:10AM - 9:20AM	Housekeeping/Facilitation team, note taker, vibes watcher, timekeeper	
9:20AM - 9:30AM	Ratify Jan. Plenary Notes/ Affirm current agenda [Decision] page 6	
9:30AM - 9:40AM	Consent calendar page 6	
9:40AM - 9:50AM	Reapportionment Implementation Report page 11	
9:50AM - 10:25AM	Regional Rep selection/election discussion page 14	
10:20AM - 10:45AM	Communication SC Proposal / Three Co - Co intros page 16	
10:45AM - 10:55AM	Break	
10:55AM - 11:25AM	Platform Proposal #1 page 30	
11:25AM - 12PM	GPCA Budget Proposal page 17	
12PM - 1PM	Lunch / Computer & Security Work Shop	
1PM - 1:30PM	GPUS Delegate announcements / related business page 22	
1:30PM - 2:50PM	SC/WG Session 1 (Platform - Camp Candidates - Int. Protocol)	
2:50PM - 3:35PM	Platform Proposal #2 page 30	
3:35PM - 3:45PM	Break	
3:45PM - 4PM	Announcements	
4PM - 4:30PM	IT, Review/process Report page 23	
4:30PM - 5PM	Bylaws, Retain / Remove Language Proposal page 26	
5PM - 5:30PM	Regional Caucus	
7PM	Evening Event Hosted by Fresno County Greens	Fresno State
Sunday 5/5/2002		
8AM - 9AM	Breakfast	Fresno High School
9AM - 9:15AM	Set-up, housekeeping	
9:15AM - 9:30AM	Consent Calendar/bring back Saturday items	
9:30AM - 10AM	Platform Proposal #3 page 30	
10AM - 10:30AM	Candidate Speech, At Large Election [Decision] page 28	
10:30AM - 10:40AM	Break	
10:40AM - 12PM	SC/WG Session #2 (Communications, Bylaws, Green Issues)	
12PM - 12:50PM	Lunch / Women's Caucus	
12:50PM - 1:05PM	Affirmation of spokesfolks / regional reps, at large results	
1:05PM - 2:20PM	SC/WG Session #3 (GROW, Finance, Electoral Reform)	
2:20PM - 3PM	Platform Proposal #4 page 30	
3PM - 3:10PM	Next State Meeting	
3:10PM - 3:30PM	SC / WG Reports (announce new cocos/liaisons)	
3:30PM - 3:40PM	Evaluation	
3:40PM - 3:50PM	Closing Ceremony	

Working Group / Standing Committee Sessions

Green Issues Working Group Proposed Agenda for May, 2002 General Assembly

I. Communications-

- A. List serve update- re: effort to take the list serve off Yahoo, due to the concerns raised by many people about giving over info that will draw spam.
- B. Phone conferences- We have decided that this can be a way to be less dependent on the internet for our communications. We need to choose facilitators, set up a schedule and topics.

II. Issues

- A. LGBT- In the platform, LGBT issues need more specificity, especially around heterosexist oppression. S. Que Hee has offered some wording for LGBT that he would like to see considered by this group for possible presentation for the platform committee. (See LGBT Plank appended to this agenda.) We will review the wording and decide if it should be forwarded to the Platform WG.
- B. Peace- We can make headway in our principles by proposing concrete actions in the platform. Once we reach a critical mass of people who are fed up with politics as usual, Greens need to be ready to act, with specific programs. Continued discussion.

III. Work Plan and Budget- will be reviewed and discussed

LGBT CAUCUS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF LOS ANGELES, 2001

SPECIFIC SHORT TERM GOALS

- Support measures that guarantee protection on the basis of sexual orientation, in employment, public services, accommodations, housing, immigration, the judicial system, legal enforcement, and in institutions
- Repeal the Defense of Marriage Act supported by the Democratic and Republican Parties Support Domestic Partner and LGBT Marriage initiatives, and the legal recognition of the rights of LGBT parents Support research, development, education, and funding that seeks to find cures, prevent, or treat AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Strive for single-payer health insurance.
- Confront and fight heterosexism, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ageism, and discrimination against the physically challenged/disabled
- Support the Lesbian movement
- Support the ten key values of the Green party
- Support individual rights over those of corporations and organizations; separation of church and state; and equitable distribution of national wealth
- Integrate issues of diversity into policies and actions
- Oppose imperialism, police abuse, militarism, the death penalty, multi-nationalism, corporate greed and exploitation, environmental pollution, inhumanity, and other victimless crimes

PLATFORM

- Heterosexism, homophobia and violence towards LGBT people are violations of individual human rights and dignity, as are sexism, racism, ageism, and discrimination on the basis of disability/ physical challenge.
- Consenting persons who engage in sexual activity must not be subjected to any form of harassment, arrest, criminal prosecution, discrimination, or other negative treatment by any state/local/federal/foreign government or organization.
- Acts of non-consensual sexual intercourse are acts of violence toward the non-consenting party.
- Governments, organizations, and corporations, regardless of size, must not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. They must support no entities that discriminate.
- Sex education that includes sexuality, sexual orientation and positive LGBT identities, must be taught in schools
- Increased research, education, development, and funding for the prevention, treatment, and cure of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- Sexual orientation must not be a negative factor in employment, public accommodations, housing, prisons, the military, and other institutions; immigration and naturalization; judicial procedures; and legal enforcement
- Domestic partnerships of same gender couples are fundamental LGBT family rights, as is recognition of the rights and responsibilities of LGBT parents. Same gender marriage must have the same legal rights as heterosexual marriage.
- Offenders must pay reparations to the LGBT people who have suffered violence and injustice
- The above policies should be part of the charters of international bodies such as the United Nations, and of any International Agreements on Human Rights
- All nations should adhere to the UN Charter on Human Rights provision for individual rights.
- The UN must recognize international LGBT organizations

Don Eichelberger
Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse
<http://www.energy-net.org>
San Francisco Green Party County Council
<http://www.sfgreenparty.org>
California State Green Party Issues Working Group Co-coordinator
<http://www.cagreens.org>
2940 16th St., #309
San Francisco, CA 94103
phone 415-861-0592
fax 415-558-8135
done@greens.org

Ratification of L.A. Minutes

Meeting Notes from Los Angeles General Assembly

Please download and review the L.A. meeting notes from <http://www.cagreens.org/plenary/archives/index.php>.

These notes are up for ratification at this meeting. Those who presented proposals in L.A. should, especially, review the notes.

Consent Calendar Items

There are three consent calendar items.

I. Statement on Redistricting

PRESENTER:

Warner S. Bloomberg III, for the Green Party of Santa Clara County
Campaign & Candidates Working Group
Al Sheahen, for the San Fernando Valley Greens

CONTACT:

Warner S. Bloomberg III, 867 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 295-9353 wsb3attyca@aol.com
Al Sheahen, ALSHEAHEN@prodigy.net

SUBJECT: Fair Redistricting; Protest 2001 redistrict abuses; Reaffirm GP CA commitments

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Various gerrymandering occurred in the 2001 redistricting process. Many of the abuses were the result of a fairly public arrangement between the Democratic and Republican parties to attempt to arrange “safe” districts for incumbents to maintain the existing balance of legislative seats between those two parties. This resolution would put the GP CA on record objecting to these abuses. It incorporates, updates and is consistent with provisions in the existing Policy Directions. The resolution can be used for outreach to other organizations concerned with this issue.

PROPOSAL:

That the Green Party of California adopt the attached resolution(s).

TIMELINE:

Adoption at the next plenary in Fresno May 4th-5th, 2002. Transmittal of copies to other organizations promptly after adoption.

RESOURCES:

Adoption of this resolution may require a small amount of paper supplies and postage stamps, as well as time by GP CA officers to implement the publicity/outreach provisions. This resolution is consistent with the existing CA GP platform.

Resolution on Fair Redistricting

WHEREAS: The redistricting process in 2001 in the State of California was openly used by incumbent legislators and the Democratic and Republican parties to create districts that, based on current voter registration, are statistically likely to result in re-election of those incumbent legislators or the election of other candidates from their respective political parties; and

WHEREAS: This strategy was accepted and approved by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS: This manipulation of boundaries for voting districts (commonly referred to as “gerrymandering”) has resulted in the undesirable division of numerous communities and constituencies, including (but not limited to) the following:

Division of the Berryessa neighborhood in northern San Jose into four State Assembly districts (20, 22, 23 and 24)

Dilution of the percentage of Asian-American voters by dividing the north San Jose area into four State Assembly districts (20, 22, 23 and 24)

Arbitrary division of the voters residing in the City of Santa Clara between two State Assembly Districts (22 and 24)

Division of the City of Van Nuys among the 40th, 42nd and 43rd State Assembly districts

Division of the former central coast State Senate District 15 into three new districts (11, 12 and 15) so that the central coast region will be represented by legislators from other regions and the strength of Latino voters is diminished

Division of Sherman Oaks between the 21st and 23rd State Senate districts

Creation of a 150 mile U-shaped State Senate District 40, including a 60 mile 100 yard corridor, in southern California running from San Diego Bay to the Colorado River

Dilution of Hispanic population in the former 26th Congressional District (now 24th, 26th and 27th CD’s -- San Fernando Valley)

WHEREAS: The use of the redistricting process to maintain incumbency or incumbent party dominance in any district is a cynical abuse of power which undermines and subverts both the principles and operation of democracy in the State of California; and

WHEREAS: The Green Party of California platform expressly calls for the elimination of gerrymandering -- “the dominant parties’ ability to create districts that ensure their continued election in the single seat system”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Green Party of California protests, objects to, and disapproves the actions of those responsible for the divisive redistricting -- the State Legislators voting for and the Governor signing such measures.

FURTHER RESOLVED: Consistent with Green Party of California commitments (see Green Party of California Policy Directions (1998) pages 59-62), the Green Party of California urges that the following procedures be adopted to prevent similar abuses in the future:

Take the redistricting process away from politicians and place it under the control of elected citizen boards that represent the various partisan, civic and cultural constituencies in the applicable communities and regions.

Criteria for drawing boundaries should be developed to avoid dividing local neighborhoods, cultural communities, and bioregions.

The preservation of individual or political party incumbency should not be considered. Rather, criteria for drawing the boundaries should be developed to make all legislative districts as competitive as possible between existing political parties.

Replace the winner-take-all plurality system of elections with a proportional representation system.

FURTHER RESOLVED: These resolutions shall be communicated to the following organizations which have adopted resolutions about the recent state legislature redistricting: Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council; Santa Clara County Chapter of Citizens for Fair Redistricting; Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting - Santa Clara County Chapter; Asian American Public Policy Institute; Asian Law Alliance; National Congress of Vietnamese in America; Organization of Chinese Americans - Silicon Valley Chapter; Vietnamese American Democratic Club; Vision New America, Inc.; California Republican Assembly; Santa Clara County Republican Central Committee, and also may be communicated to additional organizations in the discretion of the applicable officers and representatives of the Green Party of California, its committees and working groups and local Green Party organizations.

Notes:

Maps of the new California Assembly districts may be found at www.assembly.ca.gov/committee/c7/asmfinal/newtextdocument.html

Maps of the new California Senate districts may be found at www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/senplan/senate.htm

Maps of the new California U.S. Congressional districts may be found at www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/cngplan/newtextdocument.htm

A PDF file of a lawsuit challenging State Senate and Congressional Districts may be found via www.MALDEF.org

A petition for writ of mandate challenging the State Assembly redistricting has been brought by members of the City of Santa Clara.

II. Platform Edits

PRESENTER: Platform Committee

CONTACT: Peggy Lewis

SUBJECT: Permission to correct errors of fact and grammar

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

As the platform committee begins to prepare the platform for publication, it will occasionally discover errors of grammar or fact in an already approved platform. Sometimes this will be due to oversight during writing and proof-reading. Other times it will be due to information getting out of date.

Examples of errors:

Grammar: "The Green Party's ten key values represents" corrected to "The Green Party's ten key values represent"

Fact: "5% of the State's most recent budget is dedicated to the prison system" which may have been true in 1997. In the most recent budget, that number is 6%.

PROPOSAL:

The committee seeks permission to change these items at its discretion without presenting the changes at a Plenary. This permission will expire with the publication of the next platform (estimated publication date: July 2002). All other changes will continue to be brought to the Plenary for approval.

TIME LINE:

May 4 2002 till next publication of platform (July?)

RESOURCES:

N/A

III. Constitutional Amendment to Strengthen Open-meetings Law

Consent Calendar Item submitted by Don Eichelberger, San Francisco Green Party:

In the spirit of open government and citizen participation as identified in the Green Party Ten Key Values and our Platform, this item calls for State Green Party adoption of the following resolution. This resolution supports placing State Constitutional Amendment 7 (SCA 7) on the November, 2002 California State Ballot, to strengthen California's open-meetings and public-records laws:

WHEREAS an informed citizenry is essential to making proper decisions in a democracy; and

WHEREAS citizens must have the fullest possible access to meetings of public policy-making and advisory bodies, and to public records to stay informed on the issues affecting their well-being; and

WHEREAS public agencies should be permitted to bar access to such meetings and records only when they can prove that the public interest is best served in their doing so,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of California (GPCA) urge that the California Senate and the California Assembly place on the November 2002 ballot State Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 7, to strengthen the California Public Records Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act and the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPCA urges that the SCA7 be submitted to California voters with its original language, in its entirety, intact;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPCA express its appreciation to the California First Amendment Coalition and the California Newspaper Publishers Association for crafting the language of SCA7;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPCA express its appreciation to Senators John Burton and Bruce McPherson, and to Assembly members Fred Keeley, Christine Kehoe, Bill Leonard, Louis Papan and Kevin Shelley for sponsoring SCA7 in their respective chambers of the California Legislature.

A San Francisco version of this resolution was adopted by Unanimous Consensus of San Francisco Green Party County Council on February 26th, 2002

As a point of information, the Governmental Secrecy Section of the State Policy Directions calls for all meetings to be covered by the Brown Act. This Constitutional Amendment would strengthen provisions of that act.

Report of GPCA Apportionment Working Group

Summary

On January 20, 2002, the General Assembly of the Green Party of California adopted by consensus a new division of the state into regions.

The state is divided into eleven regions, by county. All 58 counties are assigned to regions, although only 34 counties are currently organized, with delegates to the General Assembly.

Maps

Maps showing the active counties, old regions, and new regions can be found here:

<http://lobitos.net/gpca/regions.html>

New Regions

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region is the same as the old Northwest (Emerald) Region (Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity (unorganized), Mendocino, and Lake Counties, plus Siskiyou County (unorganized) from the old Northeast Region, and Napa County, from the old Bay Area Region

North Bay Region

The North Bay Region consists of Sonoma and Marin Counties, both formerly in the old Bay Area Region.

East Bay Region

The East Bay Region consists of Solano (unorganized), Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties, all formerly in the old Bay Area Region.

San Francisco Region

The San Francisco Region consists of San Francisco County, formerly in the old Bay Area Region.

Silicon Valley Region

The Silicon Valley Region consists of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, both formerly in the old Bay Area Region.

Monterey Bay Region

The Monterey Bay Region consists of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito (unorganized) Counties, and is unchanged.

Central Coast Region

The Central Coast Region (Tri-Counties or Santa Barbara) consists of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, and is unchanged.

Los Angeles Region

The Los Angeles Region consists of Los Angeles County, and is unchanged.

ORSB Region

The ORSB Region consists of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and is unchanged.

San Diego/Imperial Region

The San Diego/Imperial Region consists of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and is unchanged.

Central Region

The Central Region consists of the old Northeast, Sac/Sierra, and Central Valley Regions, except for Siskiyou County, which moves to the Northwest Region.

Notes on the New Regions

It was the sense of the Assembly that certain low-population unorganized counties (in particular Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Mono and Inyo) would have the option, once organized, of making a case to be relocated into a different region than currently assigned, but that until then they would remain in the regions described above.

The Central Region is allocated one more seat than it would have based on its population, to help compensate for its larger geographic extent, and the need to organize 20 counties.

CC Representatives

The number of at-large representatives is reduced from six to four, allowing the number of regional representatives to be increased from 14 to 16 while maintaining a 20-seat CC.

The Central and Los Angeles Regions each have three CC seats, the East Bay Region has two seats, and each of the remaining eight regions has one seat.

In the transition:

Northwest Region retains its single seat.

North Bay Region is new, and has one new seat.

East Bay Region is new, and has two seats, one new and one from the old Bay Area Region.

San Francisco Region is new, and retains one seat from the old Bay Area Region.

Silicon Valley Region is new, and has one new seat.

Monterey Bay Region retains its single seat.

Central Coast Region loses one seat (from 2 to 1), but would have lost one anyway.

Los Angeles Region gains one seat (from 2 to 3).

ORSB Region retains its single seat.

San Diego/Imperial Region retains its single seat.

Central Region retains two seats from the old Sac/Sierra Region and one from the Central Valley Region, but loses the (unfilled) Northeast Region seat.

Region Details

Region	Greens	%State	Reps	Counties
Northwest	9,647	6.6%	1	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Siskiyou, Trinity
North Bay	10,833	7.5%	1	Marin, Sonoma
San Francisco	12,721	8.8%	1	San Francisco
Silicon Valley	9,444	6.5%	1	San Mateo, Santa Clara
East Bay	19,374	13.4%	2	Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano
Monterey Bay	7,594	5.2%	1	Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz
Central Coast	8,982	6.2%	1	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
Los Angeles	26,631	18.4%	3	Los Angeles
ORSB	11,118	7.7%	1	Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino
SD/Imperial	9,399	6.5%	1	Imperial, San Diego
Central	19,325	13.3%	3	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba

Representatives

Region	# Reps	Representatives	Term Expires
North Bay	1	<i>open</i>	
Northwest	1	Paul Encimer	Jan 2004
San Francisco	1	<i>open</i>	
Silicon Valley	1	<i>open</i>	
East Bay	2	Sharon Peterson <i>open</i>	Jan 2004
Monterey Bay	1	Sola Sarmiento (alternate)	
Central Coast	1	Pamela Meidell	Jul 2003
Los Angeles	3	Ginny Case	Sep 2003
		Kevin McKeown <i>open</i>	Sep 2003
ORSB	1	Tish Anderson	Nov 2003
SD/Imperial	1	Aaron Lipke	Jan 2004
Central	3	Michael Borenstein	Aug 2002
		Peggy Lewis	Mar 2003
		Jeff Eisinger	Jun 2003
At-Large	4	Beth Moore Haines	Apr 2002
		Jo Chamberlain	Apr 2003
		Justin Moscoso <i>open</i>	Apr 2003

Discussion – Regional Rep Selection

PRESENTER:

Michael Borenstein, Co-Coordinator, Coordinating Committee
David R. Shorey, Co-Coordinator, By-Laws Committee

CONTACT:

David R. Shorey, 1518 V Street #4, Sacramento, CA 95818
916-442-0666, dshorey@jps.net

SUBJECT (10 words or less):

Discussion of Regional Representative Selection Process

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE (100 words or less; include relationship, reasons and/or justification to the GP):

The Green Party of California has two levels of structure, the General Assembly and the County Organization. The General Assembly has established Committees and Working Groups to assist it in the performance of its duties. This includes the establishment of a Coordinating Committee designated to perform the day to day administrative work of the Green Party of California between General Assembly meetings. The General Assembly also designated that a portion of the Coordinating Committee membership shall be apportioned amongst Regions of the state and established what those Regions are.

The Bylaws of the Green Party of California describe the selection of Regional Members (sic) as follows:

Selection of Regional Members

Regional members shall be selected by regional caucus of delegates at General Assembly meetings, unless the active counties of a region select another process. Any such alternative process must be consistent with the ten key values, GPCA bylaws, and California law; and approved by all the County Councils of the active counties of a region; and filed with the Coordinating Committee and the Bylaws Committee. Regions with two seats are encouraged to strive for gender balance.

The application of this section has been inconsistent. Some regions have historically always used an “alternative process” of having a Regional Meeting to select their Regional Representative. Some regions have only used regional caucuses and others have used a combination of the two. There is no other system known that regions may be using to select their Regional Representative. There is no “alternative process” process filed with the Coordinating Committee or Bylaws Committee by any region or County Councils within a region.

Recently, in in-formal discussions at the Coordinating Committee and Bylaws Committee level, questions were raised about the effectiveness of our Regional Representative selection process. Concerns have been raised about the noticing of caucuses and Regional Meetings, whether caucuses are the most democratic way of selecting Regional Representatives, if Regional Representatives selected at caucuses are the legitimate representatives of the region, if Regional Representatives should be selected with more notice given to the membership of the region and also on other issues connected with the Regional Representative selection process.

The Co-Coordinator of the Coordinating Committee and the Co-Coordinator of the By-laws Committee (prior to the recent appointment of the new Co-Co.) and other members of their respective Committees agreed that the General Assembly should discuss this issue to give direction to the Bylaws Committee and Coordinating Committee as to what (if any) changes should be made in the process. Out of these discussion the Bylaws

Committee and Coordinating Committee will develop formal proposals to be brought to the General Assembly at the next General Assembly meeting.

PROPOSAL (200 words or less):

I. A discussion on the following questions:

Should Regional Representatives be selected at Regional Caucuses, Regional Meetings, both, or in some other format?

Should candidates for Regional Representative be required to submit a biography (with the biography widely distributed throughout the region) prior to consideration. (i.e. similar to the way At-Large Representatives are selected)

Should the process of selecting a Regional Representative in Regional Caucuses be limited to the delegates or include all Green Party members from that Region who are present at the caucus.

If having multiple methods of selecting Regional Representatives be determined as the will of the General Assembly, should Regions be required to file their process with the Coordinating Committee and Bylaws Committee and how?

Should the structure of the Green Party of California be modified to more formalize the Regions and what authority should be given to the Regions?

What other issues or concerns are there in the selection of Regional Representatives?

The Bylaws Committee and Coordinating Committee will use these discussions to formulate proposals to be brought back at the next General Assembly meeting.

TIMELINE:

The Bylaws Committee and Coordinating Committee will use these discussions to bring formal proposals forward at the next General Assembly meeting. Specific date s have not been determined by the General Assembly of its next meeting past Fresno.

RESOURCES:

The resources needed to for the proposal are the time needed to have the discussion on the General Assembly floor, the time of the respective Committees to take the discussions and formulate proposals out of them, and such miscellaneous expenses to carry out the above efforts.

Proposal – Communications Standing Committee

PRESENTER: Beth Moore Haines

CONTACT: beth@greens.org 530-274-0360

SUBJECT: Proposal to create Communication Committee combining Web/Clearinghouse/Media

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

The GPCA has multiple external communication methods: phone, email, postal, web, and press contacts. Most of these duties are currently handled by the Clearinghouse (also buys and distributes materials to locals) and IT (Web) Committees, with occasional press inquiries fielded by the Media Spokespersons, an ad-hoc committee of the CC.

PROPOSAL:

Creation of the GPCA Communications Committee made up of 3 groups: Clearinghouse, Web, and Media. Each group shall have a coordinator, at least one of whom shall be a Coordinating Committee member. Tentative coordinators seeking affirmation at the plenary will be Kendra Markle - Web; Ken Adams - Clearinghouse; and Beth Moore Haines - Media. Group membership will be comprised according to GPCA policy. Meetings will be separately and together as necessary to expedite the collective duties of the Communication Committee.

TIMELINE: Immediate, ongoing.

RESOURCES: Each group shall be responsible for its own annual budget and workplan.

Proposal – GPCA Budget

Presenter: Mike Wyman

EXPENSES:

	Budgeted:	Allocated:		Footnotes:
COORDINATING COMMITTEE				
phone	\$450.	\$ 90.00		
co-co phones \$50/month x2	1200.	0.00		
retreat	200.	0.00		
postage	100.	0.00		
supplies and copies	300.	0.00		
cc list serve	60.	0.00		
travel	1000.	0.00		
stipends	925.	125.00		
Legal fees	1500.	0.00		
Hardship	1000.	0.00		#
		=====		
Total CC:	\$6735.	\$ 215.00		
TREASURERS OFFICE				
Bank Fees	\$100.	\$ 13.50		
Merchant Fees	600.	\$ 196.73		
Postage	1000.	\$ 0.00		
Verisign	240.	\$ 19.95		
Software	1585.	\$ 85.00		
		=====		
Total Treasurer's Office:	\$3,525.	\$ 315.18		
FINANCE SC				
postage/printing	\$100.	0.00		
Phone	120.	\$ 30.00		
		=====		
Total Finance SC:	\$220.	\$ 30.00		
FUNDRAISING AD HOC COMMITTEE				
printing/mailing				
-Retention Mailer, January	2000.	\$ 3,143.85		
-Retention Mailer, September	2800.	0.00		
-Direct Mail, September	8500.	0.00		
-LA Greens Mailer, Apr-Aug	20800.	0.00		
Mail Permits	250.	250.00		
Part-Time Fundraiser (\$15K/year)	7500.	0.00		*, #
		=====		
Total Fundraising AHC:	\$41,850.	\$ 3,393.85		

Proposal – GPCA Budget (continued)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (NEW)

MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE

Cell phone stipend (annual)	400.	(\$33/month)	0.00	
Press Packet Materials	300.		0.00	
Workshop Materials	150.		0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	150.		0.00	
			=====	
Total MEDIA Subcommittee:	\$1000.		0.00	*

IT/WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE

Server Hosting/Pair	480.	40/mo	0.00	
Server Hosting/Cameron	1200.	100/mo	0.00	*
Server Tech Support	300.		0.00	
Domain Name Registration	52.	13/each/yr	0.00	
Website Maintenance/Kendra	1200.	100/mo	0.00	*
Streaming Video	500.		500.00	
Spanish Translation	500.		0.00	
Content Development	1000.		0.00	
Promotional Merchandise	650.		0.00	
Online Promotion (Election Season)	500.		0.00	
			=====	
Total IT/WEB Subcommittee:	\$ 6,382.		500.00	

CLEARINGHOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

mail box/postage	\$750.		\$ 22.21	
mail forwarding	500.		0.00	
phone	50/mo	600./yr	0.00	
paraphrenalia	4000.		\$ 1,633.33	
platform printing				
-summaries (10K@.65)	6500.		0.00	
-full (960@\$2.00)	1920.		0.00	
office supplies	400.		0.00	
office space	1200.		0.00	*, #
stipend for clerk	1200.		0.00	*, #
office equipment				
-ISP	120.		\$ 120.00	
-Computer Station	1000.		\$ 1,021.89	
			=====	
Total CSC:	\$18,190.		\$ 2,797.43	

Proposal – GPCA Budget (continued)

STANDING COMMITTEES

PLATFORM SC

Phone/teleconferences	\$ 500.	\$ 60.00
postage	250.	0.00
		=====
Total Platform:	\$ 750.	\$ 60.00

BYLAWS SC

Copying/Postage/Supplies	\$ 200.	0.00
Phone	180.	0.00
Travel	200.	0.00
Programs/Webwork/Misc.	250.	0.00
Total Bylaws SC:	\$ 830.	0.00

INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL SC

(Note: This SC may be deactivated this year)

phone/mail	0.	
Total International Protocol SC:	\$ 0.	0.00

WORKING GROUPS

CAMPAIGNS AND CANDIDATES WG

Travel	150.	0.00
Food	150.	0.00
Educational Materials	250.	0.00
phone	100.	0.00
		=====
Total CCWG:	\$ 750.	0.00

ELECTORAL REFORM WG

printing/postage	100.	0.00
travel	100.	0.00
legal services	\$ 500.	0.00
		=====
Total ER:	\$ 700.	\$ 0.00

GREEN ISSUES WG

Monthly conference calls	\$240.	0.00
Postage	50.	0.00
Copying	100.	0.00
		=====
Total Green Issues:	\$390.	\$ 0.00

Proposal – GPCA Budget (continued)

GROW WG

Program Funding:

-Literature Group

- Postage	100.	0.00	
- Shipping	100.	0.00	
-State Newsletter (seed funds)	1,500.	0.00	*, #
-Diversity Outreach	400.	0.00	
-Voter Registration	240.	0.00	
-County Council Support Group			
- Travel	1980.	0.00	*, +
- Phone	240.		
video workshop	100.	\$ 53.00	
phone (teleconference)	200.	\$ 22.50	
		=====	

Total GROW: \$4,860. \$ 75.50

CAMPAIGN/CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Camejo/Warren Slate	\$3500.	\$ 3,500.00
Proposition A/IRV	\$1000.	\$ 1,000.00
		=====
Total C/C Contributions:	\$4,500.	\$ 4,500.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$90,682. \$11,671.96

=====

=====

* As funds permit

May require additional approval by CC or Plenary

+ May overlap with CC travel budget

Proposal – GPCA Budget (continued)

REVENUE:

	Projected:	Realized to Date:
FUNDRAISING		
2 Retention Appeals	20,000.	\$10,298.02
Independent Mailer	10,000.	0.00
LA Greens Mailer	10,000.	0.00
Sustainer Program		
-Existing Sustainers	15,600.	\$ 3,463.99
-New Sustainers	10,000.	0.00
Nader Events	5,000.	0.00
Unsolicited Donation	\$ 1,000.	0.00
		=====
Total Fundraising:	\$71,600.	\$13,763.01
DUES FROM LOCALS AND COUNTIES		
Dues	\$ 3,500.	\$ 538.55
Total County Dues:	\$ 3,500.	\$ 538.55
CLEARINGHOUSE REDEMPTIONS		
Books	\$ 100.	\$ 20.00
Materials		
-paraphrenalia	6000.	
-platforms	10000.	\$ 143.00
-Lapel Pins	250.	0.00
-bookmarks	100.	0.00
Newspaper	3000.	0.00
Uncategorized	0.	\$ 987.24
		=====
Total CH Donations:	\$ 19,450.	\$ 1,249.24
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 94,550.	\$15,765.80
	=====	=====
	=====	=====
Net (Gain/Loss)	\$ 3,868.	
	=====	
	=====	

Proposal – Affirm Delegates to GPUS

PRESENTER: Jo Chamberlain

The GPCA Coordinating Committee used a process for recruiting GPUS Delegate applicants that included six and one half months of advertising, search, personal requests for applicants and interviewing. Applicants were asked to submitted a short biography. The GPCA Coordinating Committee then appointed delegates based on gender; north/south geographic residence; Green Party activity at national, state and local levels; attendance at Green Party meetings at national, state and local levels; demonstration of leadership at national, state and local levels; consistent attendance at regular meetings; and fulfillment of responsibilities accepted. These delegates are to be affirmed at the next state meeting May 4 - 5, 2002 in Fresno, CA.

We still need additional alternate delegates. Please step forward and help with this vital GPCA activity by becoming a delegate. Send your biography to Peggy Lewis <pegola@softcom.net>

GPUS Delegates Previously Confirmed:

John Strawn jps@west.net Santa Barbara
Beth Moore Haines beth@greens.org Nevada City
Michael Wyman mswyman@attbi.com Greenbrae
Jo Chamberlain joc@greens.org Half Moon Bay

GPUS Delegates Appointed to be Confirmed:

Alex Brideau III alikaalex@hotmail.com Los Angeles
Bill Meyers bill@iiipublishing.com Gualala
Budd Dickenson bdickinson@california.com Berkeley
Ginny Case ginnycase@greens.org Los Angeles
Kevin McKeown kevin@mckeown.net Santa Monica
Leslie Bonnet lesliebe@greens.org Oakland
Peggy Lewis pegola@softcom.net Sacramento
Stuart Beckman sbechman@earthlink.net Simi Valley
Susan King funking@mindspring.com San Francisco

Alternate Delegates Appointed to be Confirmed:

Mark Stout marks@greens.org San Francisco
Nanette Pratini npratini@cs.com Riverside
Sola Sarmiento solasarmiento@hotmail.com Santa Cruz

Report – Information Technology Committee

PRESENTER: Kendra Markle <kmarkle@greens.org>

Dear Greens,

We're growing at a rapid rate and our website is growing too! By now, most of you have GPCA accounts, which you use to register for plenaries, subscribe to statewide email lists (see below), and for other future functions (some top secret, some way cool and some of both. come to the IT meeting on Friday, May 3 to find out more). We use the contact info from your account to keep our database up to date, to keep a network of county contacts and to facilitate communication at the state level. To update your contact information, login at:

<http://www.cagreens.org/login>

Use that page to get a new account or get a password reminder emailed to you.

Here's a slew of news and reminders from the IT/Web team. If you want to read up on the full set of our website plans or need help setting up or maintaining a green party website, or just want to give a virtual shout out to your website homies, visit: <http://www.cagreens.org/webmaster>

New Frontpage Design

Check out our new website look! It's all that and a bag of chips. You can submit additions to the frontpage to help publicize your news, campaign or event, to get important information out to as many Greens as possible or just to see your name in lights. Please submit events at least a week in advance and don't forget to submit new additions often. We're trying hard to keep the content fresh and exciting, kind of like a big Green Party salad, and we promise that if you submit lots of great stuff, not only will the site be much better because of it, but we'll think of something really spiffy to do for you in thanks, like paint your house!

New GPCA Monthly Newsletter

Yes, we have a new monthly statewide newsletter and we'd like to share it with you. For now, it's email only and contains news and articles about Greens and the Green Party but it's being expanded and may even be printed every quarter if we can dig up some moolah. Subscribe when you register for the plenary (or when you update your contact information, see above). Archives will be posted on the website.

Now Everyone Can Submit Additions Directly, Woo Hooo

Our fabulous website depends on everyone for content and news. Without updates from everyone, the site quickly gets stale and out of date, but with frequent updates from lots of people, it becomes an incredible resource, a fabulous repository of information and news from Greens from all over, a single place to go to find the latest and greatest of all things Green! You get the picture.

Just in case you missed this above, it is easy for *you* to submit updates to the site! Just look for the button at the bottom of each page. Submit early and submit often! When in doubt, submit it! A submission a day keeps the doctor away!

Submit news or items for the frontpage: <http://www.cagreens.org/add.php>

Submit links to good party building resources or tutorials: <http://www.cagreens.org/grow>

Submit useful documents, graphics, tabling literature, templates: <http://www.cagreens.org/library>

Submit green candidates and election results: <http://www.cagreens.org/elections>

Submit press releases from a candidate or local: <http://www.cagreens.org/press>

Submit regional and statewide Green Party events: <http://www.cagreens.org/calendar>

Submit articles written by or about Greens or the Green Party: <http://www.cagreens.org/media>

Submit video and audio tapes to be digitized and streamed on the website: <http://www.cagreens.org/media/video>

Submit materials you think should be permanently archived: <http://www.cagreens.org/archives>

Other News & Reminders

o Word up -- if your website is still on petra and has not yet been moved to pk, it's time. Anything left on petra will be automatically moved for you sometime in the next two months. You can get an account on pk to continue maintaining your site by visiting www.greens.org/gis and clicking on "get an account". Or you can abandon your website and face the Wrath of Cameron when you try to get it back.

o Don't forget to label documents as "Public", "Internal" or "Private", and include the author's name and date. This will be very important in the near future when there's so many Greens that it'll be impossible to know without a label whether a document should be distributed publicly or kept internal. In other words, slap a label on anything you or your group authors that shouldn't be freely distributed, indexed in search engines and archived by the FBI. And don't freely distribute (i.e. post to your website) anything that has a label other than "Public" on it.

o If you'd like to support the costs of the website and other technology expenses, you can make a donation at www.greens.org/gis. Personal slaves are also gratefully accepted.

Thank you! Practice safe surfing! Enjoy! *kendra

Email Safety Notes

1. "Email viruses" (more correctly, "worms"), are getting worse by the month. Most of them exploit a convenience feature in the most popular email programs. These programs automatically launch programs to run the files which arrive as "infected" attachments in the messages the worms generate.

The obvious effect of these worms is to reproduce by mailing themselves to addresses they discover in your address book and crossing your network connection. Sometimes they corrupt files or damage the operating system installation itself.

The current worms have two more worrisome characteristics:

a. They communicate with their authors across the Internet, via Relay Chat and other protocols. Some are known to be able to upgrade themselves in the field. The "Snow White" thing, for example, contains this "plug in" feature. It could turn far more destructive, on command, at any time.

b. They spy. Some of the current crop of worms appear to monitor your screen, your keyboard, and your network connection. These "sniffers" appear to be collecting login names and passwords. An infected machine can capture your account information when you pull your email out of the mailbox server at your Internet service provider, or when you update your Web site with FTP. If you are on a cable modem service or similar ("shared segment") local area network, your neighbor's infected machine can capture your account information. "Personal firewall" products such as Zone Alarm have NO EFFECT against this attack, because it happens out on the network, not in the computer where the "firewall" is installed.

2. Defense.

The only defense against sniffers is not to expose your password. Don't use the old Post Office Protocol (POP3) to get your messages, use a modern protocol that protects the session with an encryption layer: POP3 or IMAP over "Secure Socket Layer" which your provider may call SSL or TLS. (Don't use plain old FTP to update your Web site, use Berkeley SafeTP or the Secure Copy feature of Secure Shell. Beware that a low cost Web host may use a server whose neighbors at the data center are infected with sniffers.)

If you use Microsoft Windows and share files with other users, get a virus checker that updates itself automatically every night. Use it to inspect any file you receive, before launching it, and any file you send. But don't be lulled into a false sense of security. The software vendor may take a couple of days to learn to detect a newly discovered virus, and then it takes a day for you to get the update. The Melissa worm infected most of the Microsoft mail servers on the Internet *overnight*. The more dangerous an email worm is, the less likely your automatic virus detector is to protect your system from it.

The best defense against viruses is not to use software that is susceptible to them. There has never been a Linux virus. Few virus writers target Macintosh any more.

Unfortunately, most people are unable or unwilling to abandon Microsoft Windows and the Microsoft Office suite. And most people refuse to replace their Microsoft mail program with a mail program that doesn't automatically install viruses. They'd rather risk losing their files, and you losing yours.

So you have to assume that every system that tries to send you files is infected. You can still share files, but you can't do it using email attachments. Attachments were a bad idea when they were invented, and they are an insane risk today. Your Internet service probably came with Web server space. Take the time to learn how to copy files there and mail people their URLs. Then when they download them, the files don't get launched automatically by their mail program. *Refuse* emails that contain attachments, unless you know the sender is a computer security expert. (In which case it is unlikely they would send you an attached file in email.)

3. Bill Jones incident.

The definition of "spamming" is putting people on a mailing list without confirming their permission, and then sending mail to the list.

The Bill Jones primary campaign spammed twice, a small run in December and a larger one in February. Their Web host told them to stop it after the first run. After the second run, the Web host took the campaign's Web site down, about a week before the election. They were down for a couple of days because of the delay in switching the name servers to their new host.

The campaign claimed at first to have hired an advertising company to do the mailing. But callers to the campaign office determined that the campaign manager had bought a "spamware" disk containing email addresses and a sending program. The sending program exploited misconfigured servers at elementary schools in Korea.

Every political spammer I've heard of has sunk in the polls following the spam run.

-- Cameron Spitzer March 21 2002

Proposal – Removal From Office

PRESENTER:

Coordinating Committee

CONTACT:

Santa Clara County (Jim Stauffer, (408) 432-9148, jims@greens.org)

SUBJECT:

Clarify the vote process in 6-3.3 of the bylaws.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Bylaws section 6-3, Removal for Cause, was passed in April 2001. There was an urgent need to implement the provisions of sub-section 6-3.1, so those with concerns about sub-section 6-3.3 stood aside and allowed the proposal to pass. This current proposal seeks to resolve the concerns over the voting procedure to remove a CC member from office delineated in 6-3.3.

A CC Representative, or appointed officer, is required to resign for various reasons outlined in the bylaws. If the person fails to resign, they can be subject to removal from office. A brief summary of the removal process is: a) A written statement is submitted to the CC from three responsible persons, b) The CC may appoint a mediation committee, c) If no resolution is found, a formal vote is put before the body responsible for electing the person in question.

The proposal below describes two ways of phrasing a vote to remove an office holder. There are significant differences between these positions. Rather than advocating one position or the other, county delegates will be polled in the General Assembly to determine the majority sentiment of the group. The proposal will then be framed to present that position for acceptance.

PROPOSAL (200 words or less):

If a situation arises where we must consider removing from office a CC office holder, there are two ways of phrasing the proposal using the standard 2/3 voting threshold:

A vote to retain – At least 2/3 of the electorate want the person to remain; less than 1/3 want the person removed.

A vote to recall – At least 2/3 of the electorate want the person removed; less than 1/3 want the person to remain.

Arguments in favor of a vote to retain:

- When and if we have to remove someone from office, the action should have the most positive outcome possible. The worst case scenario is a proposal that loses by one vote. If it's a vote to recall, the controversial officeholder stays in the office even though the majority does not want him/her. This will likely perpetuate the original controversy. If it's a vote to retain, the officeholder is removed even though the majority wanted to

keep him/her. This is also not good, but the voters then have the opportunity to elect a new person, which is a positive step.

- Phrased as a vote to recall, a person can stay in office with as little as 1/3 support of the electorate. If there is an organized effort to take over the party (ALA Reform Party), this phrasing works in favor of the invaders. As a political party we have no control over our membership. So we must have some safeguards to protect ourselves.
- Our platform says on page 59, "...the recall process gives citizens a chance to practice grassroots democracy by removing elected officials who are disapproved of by a majority of voters." The operative word here is "majority." We profess this for public officials, but within the GPCA a person can stay in office with only 1/3 support of the electorate with a vote to recall.
- To some extent a removal procedure is meant to serve as an ominous warning to office holders that they must fulfill their responsibilities or else be replaced. A vote to retain makes it easier to remove an office holder.
- All the pertinent wording in the bylaws refer to this action as a "recall vote." These will have to be changed to a "removal vote," or other such language.

Arguments in favor of a vote to recall:

- A small minority of the group (1/3) should not be able to change the status quo by removing a sitting office holder, which would be the case with a vote to retain. Giving the minority the power to change the status quo is not desirable.
- A high-recall threshold provides stability by making it more difficult to remove an office holder.
- An office holder should have some flexibility of operation and not be subject to the day-to-day whims of the electorate. A low-recall threshold would make it too easy to remove someone.
- We can afford to be conservative and use a high-threshold recall because terms of office are limited, so that within a relatively short period of time, a controversial office holder will have to run again regardless of the success of the recall effort.
- The integrity of previous decisions should be respected and not cast aside casually. Without a high-recall threshold, a minority at one meeting could recall an office holder elected by the majority at a previous meeting.

TIMELINE:

Immediate implementation.

RESOURCES:

None.

Election – CC At-Large Reps

Candidates' Biographies

Magali Offerman

Magali Offerman joined the Green Party of San Diego (GPSD) County in the Summer of 2000. Shortly after she became an active member of the Lagoon Greens local. Her volunteer work focused mainly on the Robert Nanninga for Encinitas City Council campaign, the Nader for President campaign and outreach to the Latino community. She has been a GPSD Council Member since the Spring of 2001. Her latest project was the San Diego Peter Camejo/ Gary Copeland debate.

Mrs. Offerman has attended every GPCA Plenary since December 2000 when it was hosted in San Diego. She is a member of the GPCA Finance Committee, Campaigns & Candidates Working Group and GROW. Her recent responsibilities with the state involve a GP of US and GPSD joint fund raising mailer and the Presidential Survey 2002. Her motivation to run for the position of GPCA CC At Large Representative comes from her continued commitment to build the Green Party as a viable political party.

Before her involvement with the Green Party she organized events and group projects for local emerging artists. Her work experience involves bookkeeping and business management. Magali was born and raised in Lima, Peru and is fluent in Spanish. She moved to the United States in 1985 at the age of 15. She lives in San Diego with her husband and their three children.

Ken Adams

- Member of the Sacramento County Council since 1999
- Sacramento County Green Party Spokesperson since 1998
- Producer of cable access TV show since 1994 with an audience of 24,000-25000. Featured guests have included: Dan Hamburg, Sara Amir, Joel Kovel, Caleb Kleppner, Mark Stout, Peggy Lewis, Laura Wells, Fred Keeley, Darrel Steinberg, Deborah Ortiz, Howard Lyman and many others with Peter Camejo scheduled for our April 8, 2002 show.
- Board member of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) since 2001
- Member of the Aerojet Citizens Advisory Group since 2001
- ECOS delegate for the Mather Master Plan Group which starts April 5, 2002
- Board member of Access Sacramento 1998-2001
- Delegate at the ASGP convention in June 2000 held in Denver, Co.
- Green Party candidate for the 5th Congressional District of California in 2000
- Active in the 1996 & 2000 Nader campaigns in Sacramento
- Active in the Headwaters Campaign 1996-1998
- Writer for the Big Bad Baseball Annual 1994-2001
- Local Sacramento activist against the Gulf War 1990-1991
- Member of the Central America Action Committee 1985-1992

- Active in the Democratic Party 1984-1992, worked on Jesse Jackson's 1984 & 1988 primary campaigns in Sacramento.
- Member of the Sacramento Peace Center 1983-1992
- Member of the San Jose Peace Center 1982-1983
- Member of the Nuclear Freeze Movement 1981-1983
- Active in the 1980 People's Party Campaign in Connecticut
- Active in Eugene McCarthy's Independent campaign of 1976
- Active in George McGovern's Presidential campaign of 1972
- Active in the Vietnam Anti-War movement 1969-1974

I have been an activist for over thirty years with an increasing commitment to peace, the environment and the Green Party. I have been an active member of my local Sacramento County Green Party and was entrusted to be the county spokesperson even though I didn't seek the position. I think that my ability to work with others helps us in our local outreach to other groups.

I would now like to help in a statewide capacity to making this a stronger party, especially as it applies to the State Clearinghouse.

Proposal – Platform Updates

Platform – Preliminary Test for Consensus

Active counties are responsible for approving all proposed updates to our platform. To expedite the approval process, we are asking each county to record your vote on the form below before the General Assembly in Fresno.

If you have comments or concerns, please send them to the committee coordinators by May 1 so that the committee can give them full consideration.

Please remember, this proposal is for the updated language. The existing, unchanged language in the platform is not the subject of this proposal.

The ballot on the following page will be collected when you register at the General Assembly on Saturday morning. Using this form will help the plenary session move through the approval process more efficiently. Past experience has proven that trying to edit or rewrite planks on the plenary floor is an unproductive exercise. Counties were notified on Feb 2 and Mar 2 about the update activities planned from the Fresno meeting, and you were invited to send your comments. We received numerous responses and greatly appreciate this feedback. At the General Assembly, we will present the updates and address any serious concerns as time allows, but we do not intend to engage in lengthy discussions. Such discussions are more appropriate for a Platform Standing Committee meeting.

~~~~~

The platform is divided into five sections with numerous planks in each section. The following updates are being presented in this proposal:

- The Economics section – Updates to existing planks; a new plank on insurance; reorganization of the section. The team that worked on this feels it is important to pass the entire section as a whole because of the interdependence of the individual planks within this section. This is the second plenary presentation of the Economics Section; the section presented here represents significant changes in response to concerns raised in the previous presentation.
- The Peace and Nonviolence section – Updates to existing planks; a new plank on terrorism; reorganization of the section.
- A rewrite of the Child Care plank.
- A new plank on Media.
- A collection of minor and substantive changes to numerous existing planks.

~~~~~

Each county may cast as many votes as is your allocation of delegates. Cast your as YES, NO and STAND ASIDE for each item on the ballot below.

Please send any comments you have on these proposed changes and additions to the Platform Committee by May 1. You can use the platform review website at www.cagreens.org/platformsc/internal/. Or send them to committee co-coordinators:

Peggy LewisMichael Borenstein
(916) 448-5021(530) 622-6659
pegola@softcom.netthebor@jps.net

VOTE HERE

County _____ No. of Delegates _____

	YES	NO	STAND ASIDE
Child Care plank page 32			
Media plank page 35			
Minor & substantive changes page 37			
Economics section page 39			
<u>Peace & Nonviolence section page 46</u> Terrorism (version 1) Terrorism (version 2) Violence in Society Militarism of Youth Disarmament International Trade Agreements Foreign Policy Peace Dividend Economic Conversion			

Comments

You may put general comments here. Since this form is collected at the Fresno meeting, do not use it for comments that require a response from the committee at the meeting.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Care and education cannot be separated when dealing with young children. In this plank, the term "child care" refers to all types of education and care for children from birth through age 5, and to programs for school-age children before and after school and during vacations.

Over the past 30 years, demand for child care has skyrocketed. The population is expanding. More women and men are in the work force, often as members of two-paycheck families or as single parents. Due to work requirements initiated through welfare reform, welfare recipients often need child care to enter or re-enter to work force. For these reasons, reliable and safe child care is an economic necessity for millions of California families. Also, we increasingly recognize the role of quality child care and early education in preparing children for success in school and beyond.

Successful child development depends on the environment in which a child spends his or her time, and for increasing numbers of infants and toddlers, this place is a child care setting for much of the day. A child's early years are crucial to brain development and academic achievement, and the foundation for academic success is laid well before a child enters the public schools. Quality early child care and education increase a child's prospects for future school accomplishments. Gains appear to be the greatest among children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Children who attend a high-quality preschool are less likely to be held back a grade, be placed in special education or drop out of school than those children who do not have this experience.

After-school care is also very important. A child's regular engagement in some type of organized, adult-supervised activity reduces the likelihood of risky behavior or exposure to harmful influence. There is evidence that participation in after-school programs can lead to improved study habits, higher grades, and better peer relations. Low income children tend to benefit most from participation in quality programs. However, tens of thousands of school-age children in California rely on self-care as their primary after-school arrangement, and spend at least some after-school hours each week without adult supervision.

Other important factors affect a child's educational achievement. Good health care, nutrition and environment influence development from conception into adulthood. A variety of studies confirm the benefits of regular health care and immunization programs for young children, and adequate prenatal care to prevent low birth weight. Uninsured children are three and one half times more likely than insured children to go without needed health care, including medical or surgical care, dental care, eyeglasses and mental health care. Untreated health problems result in missed school days as well as diminished participation in the classroom.

Unfortunately, though research shows that high-quality child care and early childhood programs provide substantial benefits to low income children and their families, evidence also suggests that child care used by low income families tends to be of low quality. The supply of child care in recent years has not kept pace with demand. Many parents use informal care even when they might prefer to enroll their children in licensed child care homes and centers. Many parents must rely on care that is not regulated by the state, including care provided by friends or relatives. License-exempt child care providers are not required to be trained in child development, and the residences in which they care for children are not subject to health and safety inspections.

The most fundamental child care inequity is that nearly all children from families with sufficient economic resources have access to high quality child care, while only a fraction of children in low- and middle-income families have access to high quality child care. The quality of child care appears to be related to a family's ability either to afford high-quality care or to gain access to a child care subsidy program. However, subsidized child care is often unavailable to those who need it. Nearly 280,000 children in working families qualify for child care assistance on the basis of income but do not currently receive it. Current evidence suggests that approximately 30 percent of families eligible for subsidies do not have access to such assistance due to under-funding.

Subsidized after school care is now available to fewer than half of the kids who could benefit from such care. After school programs not only help boost children's academic achievement but keep them safe in the after school hours.

Children are most likely to become victims of violent crime in the hours between 3 and p.m.; after school programs provide safe havens for children.

A number of barriers limit or prevent access to a quality child care system:

- A. Child care can be prohibitively expensive.
- B The supply of licensed child care in low income communities is far less than in high income communities; the supply of licensed care is also limited in communities with large Latino populations
- C Available child care may fail to match non-traditional schedules often worked by low income parents almost no child care centers offer care during the evening or on weekends; for many parents, informal, license-exempt care may be the only option outside the traditional work day
- D Care for infants and toddlers, children with special needs (children with physical or developmental disabilities), and for mildly ill children is difficult to find
- E Available child care may be of low quality
- F There are lengthy waiting lists for subsidized care
- G Care often is not close to work or home, resulting in significant scheduling problems and transportation costs. Public transit often is not accessible, affordable or safe
- H Many subsidized child care centers are experiencing a funding crisis, stemming in large part from a decline in the purchasing power of the daily rate paid to child care centers that serve low income and at-risk children. Low reimbursement rates for state-funded centers have forced many to close. Underfunding leads to low wages, which in turn lead to high turnover among child care workers. Difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff leads to staff shortages. Turnover is correlated with poor program quality
- I California's subsidized child care system is overcomplicated and uncoordinated. A number of programs serve similar populations. A burdensome contracting process impedes expansion efforts and consumes administrative resources. The division of state funding and administrative responsibility has led to inadequate oversight and inhibited efforts to improve planning and responsibility.

The Green Party advocates the following:

1. Increase access to quality child care for low-income and working families. Work toward providing voluntary universal early childhood education
2. Expand the supply of high-quality before- and after-school programs, so that each child ages 5 to 14 who needs care before and after school has access to a high quality program
3. Increase the supply of quality care for babies and toddlers, for children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for children whose parents have non-traditional work schedules. Ensure access to quality care that is linguistically and culturally appropriate
4. Increase compensation dramatically and quickly for child care workers. Provide health care benefits for all child care workers
5. Raise the Standard Reimbursement Rate used to fund state-contracted child development programs so it is adequate to support high quality, comprehensive programs. Fully fund California's subsidized child care system
6. Develop new child care facilities and repair aging ones to ensure access to quality care for all children in all communities. Ensure that child care centers have resources necessary to comply with state mandated play-ground safety standards
7. Develop a Master Plan for all child care linking the entire educational system and providing comprehensive services for children. The confusing mix of child care systems should be folded into a single and seamless system which guarantees quality child care to parents who work or train for work

8. Increase family income and support services. Low-income parents are forced to choose between child care, health care and food. We should ensure that all children have access to basic services and that workers' salaries help raise their families out of poverty. Support a state earned income tax credit, a state living wage initiative, and continue to increase the minimum wage. Increase the affordable housing supply
9. Strengthen the safety net for children not eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Improve health insurance programs to cover all children. Ensure the availability of prenatal care and childbirth education classes for mothers during all pregnancies.
10. Increase nutritious snacks and meals in before- and after-school and summer youth programs.
11. Require employers to provide mothers and fathers of newborn infants, after a standard period of employment, parental leave from work with a guaranteed right to return.
12. Require employers to provide on-site child care in work places with more than a specified number of employees. Require employers to make job-sharing options available.

Mass Media and Free Speech Plank

Access to information has profound consequences to our democracy. Mass media need to be accessible to the public as a means of both transmitting and receiving information. The mass media, including print and broadcast media, are being concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer corporations. They screen out information that does not fit into the "norm" and thus the media become a means of maintaining the status quo. The media have become a major vehicle for advertising and promoting corporate messages.

An informed electorate is critical to good government. Our legal right to criticize government is essential to the effective working of democracy.

The U.S. Bill of Rights sets forth the rights and freedoms that cannot be denied or abridged government. The scope of the First Amendment is extensive and prohibits any law which would abridge the freedom of speech, or of the press, most clearly in reference to political matters. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is responsible for determining and advocating telecommunications policies that ensure the First Amendment rights.

The privatization of the broadcast airwaves, one of our most important taxpayer assets, has caused serious deformations of our politics and culture. The private broadcasters control what the public owns; and in return for free licenses to use taxpayer property, broadcasters give us a steady stream of coarse, redundant, superficial programming and almost exclusively decide who says what on our public airwaves. They have refused to air television and radio advertisements for progressive causes, even if those representing these causes were willing to pay going rates.

News coverage of political campaigns has diminished in recent elections, making it less likely that "minority" parties and points of view will be mentioned at all, much less covered in depth. This allows only those with the most money and/or influence to easily retain or gain power, thus diminishing the power of the electorate.

The Green Party of California supports:

1. Openness in government, not secrecy, and the "Freedom of Information Act" as a way of guaranteeing access to government decision-making.
2. Those who urge the public to "reclaim the public airwaves."
3. Community radio," including those rule-making petitions before the F.C.C., which allow for a new service of small, locally-owned FM stations. We are pleased that the Pacifica radio network is once again controlled by progressive community representatives and to its historic role as a voice for peace and justice. We look forward to the democratization of the network, including election of all the Local Advisory Boards based on the KPFA model and the selection of a controlling majority of Pacifica national board members by the local communities.
4. Demands that the concentration of power in the telecommunications industry be limited.
5. A wide span of programming and information, genuine citizen access, diversity of views, respect for local community interests, public affairs and "quality children's programming." The FCC should closely monitor applications for license renewals to the public airwaves to ensure that these public interest criteria are met.
6. Requirements that new and existing technologies provide outlets for scientific and cultural expression and enhance the electoral process. The "affordable access" and "universal access" provisions of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996" should be interpreted by the FCC as a clear mandate for the telecommunications industry to make advanced communications systems affordable and equitably available to all American schools and libraries. Also providing such systems should be free of corporate influence.
7. More extensive news coverage of elections, including more debates, and coverage of ALL candidates, whether they are from so-called "major" parties or smaller parties. Also a frequency should be made available for a TV channel that is all government (elections, candidates, issues, etc.) paid for by fees collected from the use of the

airwaves. (See Electoral and Campaign Finance Reform plank concerning free media access for all candidates.)

8. Public broadcasting, including secure funding and freedom to control its content.
9. California's so-called "shield" law that protects news reporters and also support an expansion of the shield to protect the public's right to know and encourage news gathering organizations to provide information knowing that the law will protect them from prosecution or harassment.
10. Demands that everyone has a right to the airwaves to air programs, advertisements and other such messages, and that those who "own" the stations and networks not be allowed to censor such "spots" based on their own biases.
11. Public schools should add media literacy to the curriculum.

Minor and Substantive Changes

In addition to the new planks and the major updates to existing planks, numerous other planks require some updating to remove outdated information and add new information. Since these are a change to the substance of the platform they require plenary approval.

Six Minor and Substantive Changes in the Ecology Section

Recycling

Action point #7: (Delete "Legislate") Change point to read: Maintain deposits on glass, metal and plastic beverage containers or incorporate them into broader, more comprehensive community solid-waste recycling programs.

New point #13: Expand recycling promotion programs to keep the importance of recycling active in the minds of Californians.

New point #14: Encourage all businesses to minimize their use of ‘virgin’ resources, replacing them with reusable/recycled resources.

Water

New intro paragraph: MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl) is a gasoline additive used to lower auto tailpipe emissions. It has leaked from underground tanks and has polluted drinking water supplies. As of 2001, about 1200 tank sites leaking MTBE lie within 1000 feet of California supply wells or on vulnerable drinking water aquifers serving millions of people.

New action point: Immediately ban the use of MTBE. Use ethanol which is produced from corn. Prevent future such sources of pollution. (See Transportation for ways to cut down use of gasoline.)

Protection of the Atmosphere

Change point #2 to: The U.S. legislating reduction of its carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2005.

Nuclear Contamination

(Insert the word "nuclear".) Point #2 to read: Halt all U.S. research and development of new nuclear weapons systems, and continue dismantling existing stocks.

Urban Land Use

Change point #1 to: Support the ECO CITIES movement, a movement which encompasses principles of ecological design that promote the sustenance and co-existence of human populations with the environment and which use ‘green’ technologies that are beneficial to both human and planet.

Insert point #2: Promote the use of ‘ecological footprints’ to help communities assess the burden they place on their environment and in understanding where they can apply ECO CITIES concepts in their own communities.

Animal Farming

Change last sentence in intro paragraphs to: In the interests of the environment, health and non-violence, we recognize the value to individuals in adopting a vegetarian diet or even a strict vegan one.

Two Minor and Substantive Change in the Social Justice Section

Women's Rights

Change "The Green Party calls for feminine equality:" to "The Green Party calls for equal gender rights:"

New intro paragraph: Important support for single-parent families, the overwhelming majority of which are headed by women, comes from federal assistance programs. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was replaced in 1996 with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). TANF includes time limits and a lifetime assistance cap. It also allowed states to end funding for tracking and reporting of poverty levels. The time limits, combined with a softening economy, will leave large numbers of poverty-stricken families in dire straits. This will be difficult to prove, however, without adequate tracking and reporting.

New point: Remove the time limits and the lifetime cap in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Provide mandatory reporting requirements to determine the effects of the program.

Strike in point #9: Protect and strengthen Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

Reproductive Rights

New intro paragraph: The abortion-inducing drug RU 486 has been approved in the U.S. Prescribing of RU 486 has been limited to those doctors who have been qualified to perform surgical abortions. With the number of abortion clinics in this country shrinking due to terrorist attacks against the clinics and their doctors, this RU 486 restriction is effectively denying its availability in most parts of the country.

Change action point #4 to: Remove conditions which limit the availability and use of RU486 by doctors.

Economics Section

The Green Party of California is focused on creating a new economy. The two major parties legislate with the goal of serving the special interests that control them. The result is small variations on the theme of maintaining the status quo. So long as the focus of our economy is on profit and corporate growth, we will not be able to protect and respect ourselves and our resources. We must shift our focus to people, sustainability, and economic justice.

In order to achieve this, the Green Party proposes:

1. **Creating the right focus.** Economic value should reflect our social values. We must look to creating sustainable communities. Communities that are maintained by the people in them in partnership with truly local businesses. When profits are taken out of communities, the responsibility for damage done to the community must follow those profits.
2. **Creating the right budget for our government.** We must insist on measuring the long and short term benefits of government spending after the fact. Too often benefits are promised that never materialize but the spending continues.
3. **Creating the right incentives.** When we give tax breaks to polluters, we cannot say we are serious about cleaning up the environment. When we allow massive harm to people and the environment in the name of industrial production, we must recognize that harm as a cost we all bear.
4. **Creating the right livelihood for people.** People whose livelihoods depend on supporting remote, multinational corporations cannot be expected to support changing the system. There's plenty of work to do that does not jeopardize our future, does not just widen the gap between the richest and the poorest in our society and that can enrich our communities. We must encourage the creation of these opportunities.
5. **Creating the right measurement.** Our current systems of measurements focus on growth at the expense of all else. We must focus on creating measures that tell us how we are doing in terms of building a sustainable world for everyone. When businesses file environmental impact statements that promise that their plans will not hurt the community, this must be measured after the fact. And they must be held accountable if they were wrong.
6. **Creating the right types of insurance.** Insurance companies must focus on protecting people, not manipulating products to maximize profit. The artificial split between worker's compensation and employer based health insurance removes value from both systems at the expense of workers.

Creating the right focus

In 2001, California surpassed France and is now the fifth largest economy in the world. Therefore a change of focus at the State level can literally be an example to the World.

Our centralized monetary policy has evolved into a controlling and regressive force. It is not a system that serves the community as a medium of exchange and a store of value. We must restore the connection between real value and money and not allow manipulated "market forces" continue to enrich only a privileged few.

We must move in a direction where the gap between rich and poor actually narrows rather than increases. To accomplish this, we must foster the growth of programs and structures designed to keep money in the communities where it is made.

People who have real goods and services to provide have no outlet, except conventional commercial businesses. These people are not motivated to provide value to the communities they serve. Rather, they are encouraged through business regulations and tax law to create and grow corporate structures. These structures often remove value from the community and reduce people's responsibility to it.

To foster local economic diversity, economic justice and to stimulate individual productivity, the Green Party advocates refocusing the economy:

- Encourage ecologically sound and employee-owned or profit sharing businesses of appropriate scale. Such businesses would primarily serve a regional market. This would keep money circulating within the community, rather than sending it to distant corporate headquarters. To further such enterprises, we advocate "incubator programs" and other forms of assistance, as well as "Buy Local, Buy Green" campaigns. Establishing work place democracy must also be promoted.
- Corporate profits cannot be transferred out of a geographical region to another part of that corporation in an attempt to avoid bankruptcy or other such financial problems. Rather, the corporation owes a dollar for dollar responsibility to that area for any money transferred out. In our recent past we have seen too many out-of-state parent corporations and corporate officers enrich themselves and leave a company bankrupt. Employees and pensioners must not be first in line not last.
- Encourage neighborhood non-profit development corporations that work to establish community-based economics, rather than the usual redevelopment fixation on huge projects in the downtown areas of cities. While redevelopment schemes do, in fact, pump money into local economies, that money comes at the cost of empowering and enriching large development companies that have no local ties. So, in the long term, those companies siphon money from the community.
- Support the creation of cooperative and collective businesses. One way to encourage this would be to free non-profit and locally-owned businesses from the overly complex tax and regulatory structures designed for profit-making corporations. This could be paid for by shifting the tax subsidies and loan guarantees that currently go into corporate welfare and channeling them back into the community. This would need to be done without dismantling the legitimate regulations that protect workers.
- Encourage the development of informal economies within the law, including volunteerism and barter systems.
- Encourage the American "intentional community" movement-- residential communities composed of people who have come together for a common purpose and live with some degree of economic sharing.

Creating the right budget for our government

We need a thorough analysis of the California State Budget from a perspective which emphasizes results for the people of the State. California, like other states and the federal government, struggles to avoid budget deficits. The great bulk of expenditures in this state are for education (44%) and welfare (26%). While the Greens advocate adequate funding for these areas, we question whether this is being accomplished effectively.

We must examine the results that are achieved by the centralized bureaucracies that manage our welfare and education systems. Are they responding to the needs of the people in the State? It would seem not. The most dramatic example of this lack of responsiveness in recent years was the State's loss of 597 million Federal dollars provided to pay for health insurance for the hundreds of thousands of uninsured poor children in the State. There are many reasons for this missed opportunity, but one of the most telling is that there were simply not enough State employees reaching out to the families of eligible children and helping them enroll. During the period that these funds were available California ranked 50th out of the 50 states in the number of State government employees per 10,000 people. We are not advocating increasing needless government bureaucracy, but it was "penny wise and pound foolish" to allow over half a billion dollars in Federal money to remain unclaimed and allow approximately 300,000 children to go without health insurance in part because we wouldn't hire more out-reach workers.

Increasing expenditures for prisons are also a concern. Over 6% of State expenditures in 1999, this category of expense is more than double that spent by the State on its environmental protection agency and consumer services units combined.

The Green Party calls for effective government spending:

- Conduct cost-effectiveness studies of the major departments in state and local government.

- It should be part of the responsibility of State government to communicate how it is spending the public's money in ways that are accessible to the public
- Make strategic, social investments to avoid much greater future costs. For example, investing in public power, quality education and social programs. Providing effective family planning services will avoid later costs associated with neglected children.
- Stop the enormous expansion of the prison industry, which is resulting in this being a disproportionately large item in the state budget.

Creating the right incentives

Large corporations are held accountable by their shareholders to provide an economic return on the shareholder's investment. This motivates the corporations to focus on revenue growth at the expense of just about everything else. Even breaking the law can be justified when the fine for being caught is less than the profit to be made. Expecting businesses to voluntarily incur any significant costs on behalf of the communities they are in or the environment they exploit is completely unrealistic. There are, however, two ways to motivate the business community to act responsibly towards the people and the Earth. One is true cost pricing and the other is appropriate taxation.

Under our current accounting and pricing system, many commonly used products carry hidden environmental and social costs such as air and water pollution, deforestation, and toxic waste. These costs are created during the production, use, or disposal of the products. While the producer internalizes revenue and profits from these products, the costs are externalized to society and the natural environment. This externalizing of costs may make the consumer price low, but we all pay for it eventually through adverse health effects and reduced quality of life. In this way, externalized costs equate to a subsidy. Artificially low prices on subsidized products encourage their over-consumption and, therefore, the under-consumption of environmentally sound products.

When taxes are levied against labor, using labor in production is more expensive and is therefore a disincentive for employment. This also diminishes the economic value of labor by decreasing the worker's purchasing power, thus discouraging work. Therefore, we should generally decrease income, sales and other excise taxes and increase capital gains, corporate and property taxes.

Our property tax system is full of inequities and disincentives. In 1978, Proposition 13 took burden off property owners including corporations. It has resulted in an unequal and unfair burden on equivalent properties and on residential as compared to commercial properties, as well as an increased dependence by governments on the more *regressive* sales tax.

True Cost Pricing

True Cost Pricing (TCP) is an accounting and pricing system that relates to the Green values of ecological wisdom, sustainability, future focus, and social justice.

The inclusion of all costs into the price of a product would make more-ecologically-sound products cheaper to the consumer in terms of market price and the demand for these products would increase. Also, various cultural/traditional industries that have been marginalized by unrestrained technology could flourish.

For example, with solar power, if all the costs were considered (oil spills, air quality regulation, health care, massive subsidies to the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries), solar power would clearly be the cheapest alternative. Also, in the cattle industry, which is known to be severely detrimental to the environment, we subsidize the industry with free or cheap grazing land and water subsidies and we pay for the environmental aftereffects.

Many of the laws that exist to prevent environmental and social damage are not adequately enforced. Examples include (1) smog checking of vehicles and (2) tobacco taxes and court settlements, which are not being used as intended.

The Green Party calls for the implementation of true cost pricing:

- The concept of true costing, as a part of cost/benefit analyses, should be a basis for decisions on government projects and in Environmental Impact Statements.
- Integrate the concept of TCP into domestic industrial policies and regulations, and likewise, promote it in international trade agreements.
- Enforce laws that exist to prevent environmental and social damage.
- Provide education to explain that TCP incorporates the true life-cycle cost of a product. It will result in a net decrease in consumer prices as less damaging practices are adopted.
- Implement product labeling to inform consumers of the total cost of the product's ingredients and manufacturing process.
- Establish an information clearinghouse, consultant's network, and other communication channels for the exchange of information about ecologically benign techniques.
- Recognize that TCP may have short term impact on people of lesser financial means and implement measures to mitigate these effects.

Taxation

Taxes pay for important public services. The main purpose of taxes is to collect revenue to pay for these services. Other purposes are to discourage undesirable behavior and to encourage desirable behavior and to more equitably redistribute income. Any shift in tax policy must be done gradually, so that people and government can adjust to the changes. Also, changes should move toward appropriate scale of collection and use of taxes.

The basic tax policies of the State should be to foster a more equitable progressive tax structure, as opposed to the present regressive nature of California taxation which levies the heaviest burdens on those least able to pay. Sales, corporate and income taxes should be adjusted to relieve the burden on those less able to pay and increase the burden on large and multinational corporations and the super wealthy, who do not pay their fair share. Also, corporations receive tax breaks that promote growth and the consumption of resources rather than sustainability and social responsibility.

We propose:

Income, Sales and Corporate Taxes

- A more progressive income tax: Raise the state income tax for higher income. Also, reduce income taxes for low-wage workers to encourage people to seek employment rather than relying on public assistance.
- A much higher gasoline tax to replace much of the sales tax, which generally has reached unfairly high levels in California.
- Encourage the enactment of the Tobin tax on financial transactions. This tax, first proposed by a Nobel prize winning professor at Yale University, treats financial transactions across borders should be taxable events.
- Offsetting Regressive Taxes: Decreases in some taxes to offset the regressive nature of other taxes, such as the gas tax. Reduce Income tax for low-wage workers.
- Decrease taxes on labor as opposed to capital. (Exception: Energy, pollution and other environmental excise taxes should be increased.)
- Decrease the cap on the mortgage tax deduction in both federal and state income taxes.
- Reinstate the renters tax credit on the state income tax.

- With corporate tax policy, shift investments away from such things as automation, which reduces the number of jobs, and leveraged buyouts, which cause liquidation of capital, toward community development and job creation people.

Property Taxes

- Repeal Proposition 13 and replace it with a fairer distribution of property tax burden. Increase commercial property taxes compared to residential taxes and tax equivalent properties the same.
- Increase the total property tax contribution to government financing relative to sales and income taxes.
- Look into the relative impacts of the current property tax system versus a tax system based on the value of the underlying land.

Revenue Neutrality

We should aim for revenue neutrality in the tax changes we implement. We are not proposing a bigger overall role for government. However, there are some situations where certain priority activities are under-funded.

Creating the right livelihood for people

People whose livelihoods depend on supporting remote, multi-national corporations cannot be expected to support changing the system. There's plenty of work to do that does not jeopardize our future, does not widen the gap between the richest and the poorest in our society and that can enrich our communities. We must encourage the creation of these opportunities.

We propose a third alternative to a job or no job. That is providing everyone a sustainable livelihood. The need of our times is for security, not jobs necessarily. We need security in the knowledge that while markets may fluctuate and jobs may come and go, we are still able to lead a rooted life in dignity and well-being.

The concept of a "job" is only a few hundred years old; and the artificial dichotomy, between "employment" and "unemployment", has become a tool of social leverage for corporate exploiters. This produces a dysfunctional society in various ways: (1) It is used to justify inserting harmful industries into rural communities, e.g. extensive prison construction and clear cutting of pristine forests. (2) It has been used to pit workers (people needing jobs) against the interests of their own communities. (3) It has created a self-esteem crisis in a large segment of the adult population, who have been forced into doing work that is irrelevant, socially harmful, environmentally unsound, or some combination of the three.

The Green Party will also promote policies that have job increasing effects. Many people will still need jobs for their security. We need to counterbalance the decline in jobs caused either by new technology, corporate flight to cheaper labor markets outside our borders, or through the disappearance of socially wasteful jobs that will inevitably occur as more and more people embrace a green culture.

To begin a transition to a system providing sustainable livelihood, we support:

- The creation of alternative low consumption communities and living arrangements, including a reinvigorated sustainable homesteading movement in rural areas and shared housing in urban areas.
- Universal health care requiring coverage for all people in California.
- The creation and spread of local currencies and barter.
- Subsidizing technological development of consumer items that would contribute toward economic autonomy for individuals, such as renewable energy devices.
- Setting up local non-profit development corporations.
- Providing people with information about alternatives to jobs.

- For creating jobs, we propose:
- Reducing taxes of labor. This will make labor more competitive with energy and capital investment. (See Taxation above.)
- Solidarity with unions and workers fighting the contracting out of tasks to part-time workers in order to avoid paying benefits and to break up unions.
- Adopting a shortened 30 hour work week. This could translate into as many as 26 million new jobs.
- Subsidizing renewable energy sources which directly employ 2 to 5 times as many people for every unit of electricity generated as fossil or nuclear sources yet are cost competitive. Also, retrofit existing buildings for energy conservation and build non-polluting low impact transportation systems.
- Supporting small business by reducing tax, fee and regulatory burdens on them. The majority of new jobs today are created by small businesses. This would cut their mortality rate and help them create more.
- Changing our foreign trade policies to minimize the exportation of jobs to other countries. (See NAFTA plank.)

Creating the right measurement

The corporate market system is based on a competitive struggle to exploit people and nature for profit. Such measurements as the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) perpetuate the idea that the economy should be measured by and hence focused on growth and output. But there are many perspectives from which to measure the economy and not all of them focus on profit. One way to measure the economy is to assess the value of non-monetary goods and services and to measure the rate of infant mortality, life expectancy of people, educational opportunities offered by the state, family stability, environmental data and health care for all people. Another is to quantify what human benefit (in terms of education, health care, elder care, etc.) is being provided for each unit of output. Measuring the gap between the most fortunate and the least fortunate in our society, for example, tells us how well or poorly we are doing in creating an economy that does not benefit some at the expense of others.

Still another useful measurement would tell us what additional costs, external to the direct production process, are incurred to achieve the production of goods and services. These external costs are borne by local communities and society as a whole. For example, the nation's largest oil spill (the Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound) was a boon to Alaska's overall GDP, but the spill's cost to the environment, and to the many people affected, was too high a price to pay.

In a local example of external costs, incidents of toxic leaks at refineries in Richmond, California have had significant detrimental impact on the short term cost of Health Care in Richmond and the long term health status of the community. This is reflected as short term costs to the community in the form of lost days of work and school.

The Green Party will work for a more just economic measurement system:

- Devise economic monitoring systems that measure a business's total costs to the environment and society.
- Some of these costs can not be expressed in monetary terms, but various accounting techniques are being developed to represent such costs. We support these efforts and will encourage their implementation to augment or replace the GDP. [see the Creating the right incentives section]
- Account for not only environmental costs, but also social costs such as substandard wages and working conditions.
- Classify activities such as volunteerism, domestic work and child rearing as contributions to the economy.

- Require businesses and government agencies to determine what social and environmental effects their activities are having, and to make that information public. The assumptions made in these reports should be backed by money put in escrow in case they prove to be inaccurate.
- To respect and encourage diverse viewpoints about our economy, California should experiment with measures to discover which ones have meaning to people in terms of representing their view of the value of the economy. For example, if we divide the amount of money spent on public education in a 12 year period by the number of high school graduates from public high schools at the end of that same time period, have we created a meaningful measure? The answer can only be found if we:
- Create a climate where discussion and understanding of economic measures become relevant to the general public. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the NASDAQ Composite Index have both regularly become front page news items. This proves that even abstract measurements of economic activity can become matters of public interest given the proper development and media exposure.

Creating the right types of Insurance

In the State of California, the position of Insurance Commissioner is an office that is elected by popular election. For this reason, the economics platform of the Green Party focuses on the vision we propose for that office.

Insurance companies aggregate the risks faced by individuals and businesses and spread that risk across all similar policyholders. They justify prices based on these groupings. Except where the law prohibits it, these groupings are created to manipulate prices for the benefit of the company.

This is most apparent in the area of health care where the price for the same family of four differs depending on how they are trying to obtain their coverage. If the family is obtaining coverage through a large employer, insurance companies will have them pay one price; if they are buying through PacAdvantage—the California small business Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperative—they will pay another, and, if they are trying to purchase the coverage as individuals, they will pay yet another price. That is if they are even able to obtain coverage as individuals. A recent (June 2001) study funded by the Kaiser Family Foundation and conducted by the Georgetown University Institute for Health Care Research and Policy found “The individual health insurance market is unpredictable, inconsistent and expensive. The benefits you receive and what you pay depend on your personal circumstances and the reaction of individual insurance carriers”.

To promote fair and socially just access to insurance the Green party advocates the following:

- Workers Compensation Insurance is an area where reform is long overdue. We must work to minimize the tremendous redundancies and inefficiencies in maintaining the medical component of worker’s compensation insurance separate from employer sponsored health insurance.
- We need to cooperate with other states on a multi-regional approach to regional disaster coverage. There may be legal obstacles to this. We need to make sure that those that offer Earthquake insurance are taking into account the subsidy they will receive from the Federal government if an affected area is declared a disaster area and becomes eligible for Federal funds.
- It is important that we become aggressive in educating the public about Long Term Care insurance (LTCI). We should also be pro-actively examining the ways that Long Term Care Insurance (LTCI) is currently provided in places with more experience in it than we have. Alberta, Canada has developed reimbursement strategies for LTCI that attempt to reward keeping residents as healthy as possible.
- We must have universal, single payer health coverage. Financial intermediaries do little or nothing to improve the delivery of health services and their role must be minimized.

Peace and Nonviolence Section

NOTE: Through out this section-- New text is shown like this. ~~Deleted text is shown like this.~~
Two versions of the Terrorist plank are presented. Please vote for which version you prefer. A concern has been raised that this subject is too big and complex to be dealt with adequately in a few short paragraphs. If you agree, vote NO on both versions.

Nonviolence

Green principles oppose violence in all its forms: assaults against individuals, families, nations, wildlife and the environment. We also recognize that threats, intimidation and fear can be as destructive as physical violence. On the personal as well as the national level, means can never be separated from ends.

American society has a historical legacy of violence that results in a widespread acceptance of violent methods. This is reflected in high violent crime rates, the highest handgun murder rate in the world, a propensity for military solutions and a patriarchal desire to dominate through threats and outright force.

Terrorism [version 1] (plank)

Since the violent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, the word “terrorism” now rings with a frightening reality in this country. Justifiable or not, the U.S. is focusing its “war on terrorism” on the Islamic countries of the Middle East. The Bush administration’s statements that extremist Muslims hate us for what we are, not for what we do, is a dangerous rationalization. Our foreign policy has earned us much criticism from the Muslim world. Some examples are the continuing presence of American military on the Islamic sacred land of Saudi Arabia, our siding with (and funding) Israel in their conflict with Palestine, U.S.-led sanctions against Iraq, and our general imposition of western culture and values around the world. These criticisms are well-earned, but they do not justify killing 3,000+ innocent civilians, as most Muslim around the world have said.

The root causes anti-social extremism can frequently be traced to environments of repression, poverty, corruption and cultural despair. Our foreign policy has contributed to all of this, but we must also recognize the some Islamic countries (especially the richer countries) have contributed to the rise of a violent form of fundamentalist Islamism in poorer countries. The richer countries have bought-off extremist groups to keep them out of their country. If extremists are arrested, they are quite often just deported to a poorer country. The result has been the spread, for example, of fundamentalist schools in the poorest communities through out the Middle East and East Africa. These "schools" do not teach basic academic skills. They teach violence, hatred and intolerance. And many Muslims have complained that this is a distorted view of Islam.

Police actions against terrorist organizations may be justified to some degree, but the U.S. and Islamic countries must address the root causes of violent extremism, and the misunderstanding between our cultures. Otherwise we risk an escalation of attacks on the U.S. followed by our military retaliations.

The Green Party proposes the following steps towards a solution:

1. Re-examine our foreign policy in terms of its affect on, and perception by, non-western, non-Christian cultures. Practise compassion rather than just talking about it. [See the Proposal – Platform Updates (continued) section of the Proposal – Platform Updates (continued) plank]

2. Promote open dialogue and cultural exchanges between Muslim countries and the U.S. to diminish cultural misconceptions and improve mutual understanding.
3. Address the poverty and deprivation that fosters violent extremism. The \$84.2 Billion allocated by Congress for war against Afghanistan and terrorism is twice the amount estimated by the U.N. to eliminate poverty world-wide. [See the Proposal – Platform Updates (continued) plank]
4. Encourage and assist moderate Islamic countries and organizations to abate the spread of violent forms of fundamentalist Islamism, and to eliminate the poverty and ignorance that causes people to be susceptible to its extremist teachings.
5. End the sanctions against Iraq that have not weakened Saddam Hussein but continue to kill an estimated 5,000 Iraqis each month.
6. Stop the enormous flow of weapons being sold through out the world. The easy availability of weapons turns every tribal leader into a potential “war lord.”
7. Enforce U.N. Resolutions in the Middle East. Work to reduce the mutual antagonism between Palestine and Israel, and promote compromise and peaceful conflict resolution.
8. Promote democracy and human rights in countries dominated by totalitarianism and repression.

Terrorism [version 2] (plank)

What is “terrorism?” The violent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 have certainly given us food for thought. It is being called “terrorism!” Our foreign policy has earned us much criticism from the Muslim world. Some examples are the continuing presence of American military on the Islamic sacred land of Saudi Arabia, our siding with Israel in their conflict with Palestine, and our general imposition of western culture and values around the world. These criticisms are justified, but do not justify killing 3,500 innocent civilians.

At the same time, US massive violent retaliation is not the answer. Police actions may be justified by these criminal acts, however we must address the root causes of hatred or risk an escalation of violence.

The Green Party proposes the following steps towards a solution:

1. Re-examine our foreign policy in terms of its affect on, and perception by, non-western, non-Christian cultures. Practise compassion rather than just talking about it. [See the Foreign Policy plank]
2. Promote open dialogue and cultural exchanges between Muslim countries and the U.S. to diminish cultural misconceptions and improve mutual understanding.
3. Work to ameliorate the poverty and ignorance that causes people to be susceptible to violent teachings.
4. Stop the enormous flow of weapons being sold through out the world. The easy availability of weapons turns every tribal leader into a potential “war lord.”
5. Promote democracy and human rights in countries and cultures dominated by totalitarianism and repression.

Violence in Society (plank)

Domestic violence is becoming more recognized and is being addressed, but it continues to linger as a major problem in our society. As with most acts of violence, the causes are known and the solutions are attainable.

Despite arguments about the second amendment, it is obvious that the easy availability of guns contributes to violent crime. The more guns there are in society, the more they will be used. Hunters, gun enthusiasts and those needing personal protection can be accommodated with minimal inconvenience while eliminating assault rifles and other such weapons whose sole purpose is to kill.

Governments have a special responsibility to set good examples through their policies and actions. ~~We, therefore, oppose the death penalty.~~ In regards to government sanctioning the death penalty, we feel that executions are motivated more by vengeance than by justice. Executions are carried out in disproportionate numbers among minorities and the poor. More evidence is mounting that shows innocent people are being sentenced to death due to inadequate defense, false testimony from other criminals seeking reduction of their sentence, and over-zealous prosecution. Executing criminals has not proven to be an effective deterrent to crime, and it does not address the underlying causes of crime: lack of economic opportunity and education, drug use, child abuse, etc. In California, 125 organizations and religious groups have called for a moratorium, as well as the U.N. High Commission on Human Rights. We recognize the need to protect society from violent criminals, but support a basic right to life and humane treatment. The lengthy appeals process is itself inhumane as well as costly. We also have a responsibility as a society to comply with international treaties regarding treatment of prisoners, both civilian and military. Yet we have a prison system that brutalizes prisoners, which hardens rather than rehabilitates them. And we have a system driven more by private profit than by penitence.

The Green Party proposes these actions to counter patterns of violence:

1. Expand mass media campaigns to educate the public on the presence and long-term damage of domestic violence. Provide early screening and prevention training for those families at high risk, and provide more intervention and treatment for both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.
2. Register all legal fire arms, especially hand guns and other cancelable weapons. Strengthen the ban on sales of automatic and semi-automatic weapons. ~~We support the "Brady Bill" and any similar legislation that would establish a nationwide waiting period before a handgun can be purchased.~~
3. Teach nonviolence and peaceful conflict resolution at all school levels. Corporal punishment in schools should be abolished since to use it is to teach violence.
4. Provide adequate funding to remedy the conditions that spawn violent crime. Such funding is economically more effective than the cost of trials and prisons. [see the Criminal Justice plank]
5. Develop police training and procedures that stress handling situations through mediation and negotiation, while minimizing the necessity for armed confrontations.
6. Support incarceration rather than executions, with the provision that dangerous criminals will not be released as long as they pose a threat to society or other individuals. We support the growing call for a moratorium on executions.
7. ~~Avoid military solutions to international conflicts. Such conflicts should be avoided, if possible, and be handled according to the principles set out in the Foreign Policy plank.~~

Militarism of Youth (plank)

Militarism is harmful because it consumes both natural and human resources which could be better employed in useful endeavors. People have a basic right to decide how they will serve their society and contribute to it. This choice should be based on the individual's religious, moral and ethical beliefs.

Today, young men are still required by law to register with the Selective Service System. Even though actual conscription has not been used since the Vietnam War, the military's propaganda ("Be All That You Can Be"), and its invasive recruitment tactics in schools, have resulted in a so-called all volunteer force that is, in effect, a

"poverty draft." Young men and women are enticed into the armed forces as an escape from poverty and may then find themselves obligated to fight wars that they don't believe in, or even find morally objectionable.

The Green Party urges measures to counter the injustice inherent in militarism:

1. Respect the right of all citizens in and out of the military to follow their principles in claiming conscientious objector status. ~~objection—this includes the right to selective CO.~~ Congress should monitor the military's procedures in processing CO claims.
2. ~~Grant amnesty to personnel whose rights were violated by the military's failing to follow proper procedures in processing CO claims.~~
3. Give equal time to opposing viewpoints in any school where military recruiters have access to students. This will allow students to make informed choices.
4. Hold military recruitment materials to the same "truth in advertising" standards that are required of businesses.
5. ~~Withhold access by military recruiters to the names of graduating seniors unless they, or their parents in the case of minors, sign a release authorizing that information.~~

Disarmament (plank)

Green values emphasize the sanctity of life and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Disarmament isn't just a desirable end result of these goals, it is also an important step toward attaining them.

Even though the cold war ended over a decade ago, our level of armament grossly exceeds any reasonable estimate of what we need for national defense. These weapons' destructive capacity, if they were used, would guarantee an unimaginably horrific toll in human life and environmental damage that would affect many generations to come. When the USSR dissolved as a single sovereign entity, our former superpower enemy died. When that occurred, the rationalization justifying these weapons of mass destruction became obsolete. To date, we have conducted 1,054 nuclear weapons tests. This is more than the other six known nuclear- capable nations combined.

The continuing propensity for war, and the huge international arms market, has resulted in increased global conflicts. While such conflict decreased through the early 1990s, to a low of 20 conflicts in 1997, a sharp increase in recent years now shows 38 such conflicts in progress at the beginning of 2002. Many of these are caused by the collapse of nation states to where they can not provide for the basic needs of their citizens. The resulting emigration of desperate people to neighboring states causes ethnic, social and religious conflicts, as well as strain on the resources of those neighbors. All of this perpetuates a general instability that easily leads to armed conflict.

Our continuing reliance on military solutions is reflected in the number of international agreements our government has refused to signed. This not only includes agreements designed to reduce weapons, but also those aimed at improving the general human conditions. The list of unsigned agreements is: Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines; Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II; Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II; Kyoto Accord; Convention on the Rights of Children; Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and the Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. And the current Administration has announced its intentions to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

~~The diversion of economic resources to the defense industry is largely responsible for our decline in international trade. Defense spending has also been funded at the expense of many badly needed social programs.~~

The Green Party advocates progress towards disarmament by the following means:

1. Make a realistic assessment of our national defense needs. We must stop the research, development, testing and deployment of offensive weapons—especially nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. We must halt the international exchange of nuclear technologies and materials.
2. Immediately ban international arms sales, and enact a unilateral reduction in our current armaments stockpiles. ~~We need bilateral and multilateral agreements to eliminate all offensive weapons.~~
3. Set up a multi-level international peace-keeping force consisting of citizen groups as well as the U.N. [Initiate international cooperation in the resolution of conflicts to prevent them from escalating into warfare.](#)
4. Escalate talks with the former USSR republics to account for, and eliminate, their stockpiles of weapons—especially weapons grade plutonium. We call on the world community to assist in alternative job programs for [weapons designers so they aren't tempted to sell weapons material.](#)
5. [Put our efforts into preventing conflicts and promoting stability by joining the rest of the world in signing, and enforcing, the various international agreements that address these issues.](#)
6. ~~Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and enforce and strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Communities and states should have the right to establish legally binding nuclear-free zones.~~

Global Justice

U.S. foreign policy should emphasize promoting other nations' self-sufficiency and self-determination, rather than ensuring security for overseas American business interests and the retention of military bases. Green Parties around the world stand for international trade policies that respect the planet's ecology, peoples' social needs and the self-determination of communities, regions and nations. [Peace can not be achieved without economic security and general welfare for all countries.](#)

International Trade Agreements (plank)

The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) constitutes a major step toward internationalization of commerce that, in many instances, supersedes local and national governments' authority. GATT's World Trade Organization and NAFTA's Trilateral Commission allow transnational corporations to circumvent national environmental, health, and labor standards and laws. Corporations characterize these laws, intended to protect people and the planet, as impediments to trade. [For example, NAFTA's Chapter 11 allows for corporations to gain restitution if their assets are expropriated \(taken by a government\). However, corporate lawyers are now pursuing an interpretation that says any decrease in shareholder value is considered expropriation. In other words, any decrease in profit should be compensated by tax payers. This new interpretation is the basis for numerous lawsuits that will be settled in secretive tribunals with no public representation, but it is the public that will pay the penalties if these cases are found in favor of the corporations. One such case is a billion dollar lawsuit against the U.S. by the Canadian company that produces MTBE \(the gasoline additive\). Since California outlawed the additive, the corporation is claiming this to be an expropriation.](#)

GATT and NAFTA seek to equalize protective regulations at the lowest possible level. Effectively, this is international deregulation of trade. Under GATT, for example, practices that have already been challenged include: U.S. Clean air Act rules; U.S. fuel efficiency standards; European regulations on hormones in beef; Thailand's restrictions on importation of cigarettes; Indonesia's halting of rattan exports to protect their forests; the U.S. ban on importation of asbestos; the U.S. ban on importation of tuna caught in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act; and Massachusetts' ban on state purchases from companies doing business in Burma. Moreover, under NAFTA a U.S. corporation is suing the Canadian government for damages it claims are caused by Canada's pollution laws on gasoline additives. This trend implies a subversion of national sovereignty by multinational

corporations. Issues such as child labor, resource conservation, worker health and safety, and environmental protection can now be compromised by corporations' unchecked pursuit of profit.

The inclusion of Low Income Countries (LICs) into the high-roller world of unregulated global trade increases the pressure on these fragile economies to become export oriented. This complements the austerity programs of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that have imposed economic colonialism on debtor LIC's (see the Third World Debt section below). GATT and NAFTA also limit a country's ability to regulate foreign investment, and open markets to services such as banking and lending. This can result in smaller countries losing control of their own national economies.

To foster economic, social and environmental justice in the internationalization of trade, the Green Party calls for supplementing these Trade Agreements:

1. Maintain governments' authority to regulate the health and safety of its workers, protect its environment, and preserve its natural resources.
2. Implement protective tariffs and trade barriers to protect local, state and national health, safety, labor and environmental standards against lower standards in other countries. These trade restrictions should only be used to promote better environment and labor conditions, and not to protect domestic employers from competition.
3. Counterbalance commerce becoming global by labor unions doing the same. The well established unions of the developed countries should expand their organizations to assist, or help establish, viable unions in LIC's. [see the Unions plank]
4. Allow countries to refuse trade for human rights, workers' rights, social justice or other legal and moral concerns.
5. Insist international trade policies, agreements and institutions promote ecologically sustainable economic self-reliance in all countries. [see the Third World Debt and Foreign Policy sections below]

Third World Debt (plank)

Economic assistance should help recipient countries to achieve economic self-sufficiency, ecological sustainability and a democratic management of development projects.

The enormous external debt of many Low-Income Countries (LICs) not only endangers international economic stability, but also places undue pressure on the debtor nations to commercialize their natural resources. The debts make raising their citizens' living standards very difficult. These huge debts are largely a result of the capitalistic philosophy of accumulation of wealth by exploiting labor and resources. The effects of these predatory policies are compounded by exporting profits to foreign creditors. Currently, the net negative transfer of capital from LICs to advanced countries is over \$42 Billion a year. Such capital flight has caused poverty to reach unprecedented levels.

Current debt relief policies center around "debt for development" swaps. The basic assumption in these schemes is that LIC debts have reached the point where they are unpayable. The high interest rates of the past decade, and the refinancing of debts, have driven the debt service to unmanageable levels. In debt swaps, external debts are sold to agencies or corporations at discounted rates. The debt bonds are redeemed in the LIC for local currencies and are used for development and/or conservation projects. These are ostensibly altruistic plans, but these swaps result in converting the external debt to internal debt, a process that causes inflation. Also the LIC must then redeem these bonds with public funds that had often been budgeted for social services and education. All too often, the swap-financed projects are managed by foreign interests with no local control over the projects. This maintains the existing debtor/creditor power structure.

The Green Party supports measures to ease such debts:

1. Initiate UN, OAS (Organization of American States) and World Court investigations into the legality of such debts. In most cases the principal has been paid many times over, and the debt has been increased through artificial mechanisms.

2. Allow LICs to buy back their own debts and to participate in managing swap-financed projects.
3. Write off debts when they are recognized as unpayable. Debt ceilings should be negotiated between LICs and their creditors.
4. Increase the participation of NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) in swap-for-development projects.
5. Link foreign aid and loans to demilitarization, land reforms, ecological preservation, democracy and human rights. Non-Government agencies should monitor the implementation of such programs.

Foreign Policy (plank)

A general international trend towards democracy and self-determination now prevails; the U.S. must end its practice of economic colonialism.

International business practices have taken advantage of countries lax environmental and safety standards and a needy labor force that is easily exploited. Such practices are often in conflict with local efforts to establish work place democracy, and to address environmental and safety problems.

In the past, establishment of bases and stationing of service personnel overseas heightened Cold War tensions and tended to make the U.S. military a global police force. Together with economic leveraging, such military presence assured that self-serving U.S. businesses would encounter little resistance.

U.S. foreign aid programs under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) have promoted U.S. development methods without adequately examining their feasibility, appropriateness or cultural implications for the host country. Aid is given in inordinately greater amounts to countries that are considered strategically important to the U.S.

[Of the foreign aid that the United States distributes, the majority is provided as military aid. This military aid is generally split between training foreign military officers and providing U.S. weapons to foreign governments. Both are basically cash handouts to our military industry and do nothing to bolster a foreign country's economy or living standards. The U.S. government's tradition of lax oversight of such aid results in it being used to wreak havoc on the local populace. Foreign aid is also commonly used to prop-up U.S. multinational corporations by using aid money to buy goods from the these companies and then ship them to foreign countries. This is not only corporate welfare, but it also invites conflicts of interest in public policy as politicians are tempted to reward the companies that have supported their re-elections. It also creates a dependency of domestic corporations on foreign policy decisions. Most of all, it robs the recipient country of the opportunity to build up its own industry and become self-sufficient in meeting the needs being addressed by foreign aid.](#)

The Greens believe in policies consistent with participatory democracy and global responsibility:

1. Insist that U.S. corporations maintain foreign business practices that don't jeopardize workers, damage their environment or interfere with their government.
2. Negotiate a General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) that promotes the economic development and self-sufficiency of recipient countries, rather than profitability for the G-8 countries. [See the International Fair Trade section above]
3. Reevaluate our government's aid practices (USAID, for example) by emphasizing appropriate-level technologies, ecologically sustainable infrastructures and business projects, cultural sensitivity and monetary aid consistent with countries' real needs.
4. Encourage U.S. cities to develop municipal foreign trade policies centering around local trade agreements, "sister city" arrangements and cultural exchange programs.

5. Support and endorse United Nations conventions. Putting aside "new world order" rhetoric, we believe that the U.N. should finally be utilized for its intended purpose: it should act as an objective, multilateral body to maintain world order. The U.S. could help attain this objective by paying its U.N. dues on time.
6. Close all foreign military bases as soon as possible and clean up any toxic wastes left behind. Fair and responsible business practices would eliminate the need for such bases.
7. Military foreign aid should be discontinued. Any monetary foreign aid distributions should be provided as cash payments to foreign governments, or reliable non-government agencies. Recipient countries should have more authority in deciding how the money is spent, rather than simply using it to purchase U.S. domestic goods. All foreign aid should be based on the improvement of democracy and general living standards and/or to reduce overall suffering in the recipient country.

Peace Economy

Green philosophy emphasizes the need to enable people to meet basic needs of quality food, housing, health care, education and employment. Our country needs economic and social revitalization that can only be achieved through sane resource use and future-focused planning.

Peace Dividend (plank)

Use of resources to meet basic human needs has long been sacrificed to pay for a huge military budget. This level of military spending is the result of a bloated defense budget based on unrealistic assessments of foreign military threats, inefficient and wasteful procurement practices, self-serving competition between different branches of the military and duplication of military functions. Local economies have become so dependent on military spending that "pork-barrel" legislation has become an accepted practice.

The fiscal year 2002 national budget (proposed before Sept. 11) requested about \$1.9 trillion total. About one third of that is discretionary spending (non-discretionary spending is mostly entitlement programs mandated by law). Military spending accounts for about half of all discretionary spending in the budget proposal. This means that the combined budget for all other programs in all other agencies and departments just equals what the military is getting. This spending proposal includes \$8 Billion for the Ballistic Missile Defense system, while providing no line item detail explaining on what this huge amount would be spent.

To fund the war in Afghanistan and the "war on terrorism," the Bush Administration has requested a \$48 Billion increase over the fiscal year 2002 budget request. This level of spending is roughly equal to the combined defense budgets of the next 15 largest militarized countries. For example, it is 41-times larger than Russia's defense budget. This war money comes at the expense of funding for social programs and international assistance. The proposed budget is more than 50-times larger than what we spend on international food and assistance, and 47-times larger than the EPA budget.

The Green Party advocates a major shift in the allocation of resources:

1. Redefine the military's role in the light of post-Cold War circumstances, multi-national economics and the emergence of developing nations.
2. Develop a new national defense policy with participation by citizen and governmental representatives as well as the military. The Pentagon's "bottom-up review" in the 1990s—which concluded that funding is needed to support two major regional conflicts simultaneously— was strongly criticized both inside and outside military circles. Now the Pentagon must, once again, re-evaluate the threats to our country following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

3. Reduce military spending to 25% of Cold War levels. Several studies supported the possibility of reducing such expenditures by 50% during the USSR's waning years. Today, no superpower threats justify even that spending level. While a 75% reduction is an arbitrary target, the Government and military should be made to explain to the country's citizens why they would need more.
4. Stop funding the Ballistic Missile Defense system. An intercontinental ballistic missile is not the weapon of choice for a terrorist organization or a developing country. With the demise of the cold war and the growth of global economic interdependence, no industrialized nation poses a threat of an all-out invasion of the U.S. Furthermore, the current missile defense schemes can not be proved to work since they can not be tested against real targets, and they remain vulnerable to countermeasures and decoys.
5. Distribute the resulting "peace dividend" should, in part, to state and local governments to handle the multitude of neglected problems in social welfare, the environment and the economy.
6. Simplify and decentralize the military procurement system, and consolidate military functions to eliminate duplication.

Economic Conversion (plank)

National security consists of economic and social well being at least as much as military strength. The “military industrial complex” significantly shrunk in the early 1990s a few years after the collapse of the USSR. However, military spending has actually increased from the Cold War days, and much of that money still finds its way to local industries. We must continue converting military-dependent industries to economically and ecologically sound civilian production. Comprehensive planning is needed to minimize the affect on employment.

Excessive militarization of the economy during the Cold War drew much of our scientific and engineering talent away from commercial production. This ~~has~~ decreased our commercial products' viability in world markets. Weapons production is capital and material intensive, resulting in a low ratio of jobs created to dollars invested. The world's general economic experience indicates that a peace economy is stronger than a military-dependent one.

The defense industry is selling less weaponry to the U.S. government these days. To compensate, sales to foreign governments has substantially increased. Exporting weapons, and arranging foreign loans for weapons purchases, in effect means that we are encouraging armed conflicts for our own profit. We are encouraging foreign countries to develop militarized economics with the same bad effects that we experienced. Eastern European countries are being pressured into joining NATO. But one of the requirements of NATO is that a country must devote a certain percentage of their budget to building armed forces. And, of course, they will be buying many of their weapons from U.S. companies. This dangerous trend perpetuates military solutions and diverts money away from social programs.

~~The lessening of Cold War conflicts that began during the Gorbachev era resulted in increased unemployment. This trend has accelerated as the defense industry continues to experience an unstable economic climate.~~

The Green Party supports a careful economic conversion plan:

1. Convert our economy to a peaceful basis, including the disposition of closed military sties. This should be planned and administered at local and regional levels. The peace dividend could help to fund these changes.
2. Conduct a survey of the resources and capabilities that are available, or potentially available, at facilities currently devoted to military production.
3. Conduct a survey of goods and services needed by society and match these with the capabilities of current military production facilities.

4. Forewarn employees of plant closures, and provide retraining for displaced workers.
5. Transfer the ownership of closed military bases to local communities for civilian use.

Resources for 2002 additions:

The Washington Spectator, Dec 1, 2002

Radical Middle, Sept. - Dec. 2001

Nucleus Vol 23, No 3, Fall 2001

www.deathpenalty.org

The Defense Monitor, Vol XXVII, No. 7; Vol XXX, No. 1; Vol XXX, No. 8; Vol XXXI, No 1

Utne Reader, Oct. 2001

PSR Reports, May 1-5, 2002

www.firstchristianchurchsanjose.org

Peace Action newsletter, Feb 2002

Bill Moyers program on global trade, PBS Feb 2002

Delegates To The May 2002 State Plenary

Method of Equal Proportions (aka Huntington-Hill method. Current Federal system) USING MODIFIED DIVISOR

Counties	Regs*	Modified Quota	Geometric Mean	Delegates	
Alameda	14,905	9.67	9.49	10	
Butte	2,385	1.55	1.41	2	
Calaveras	263	0.17	0.00	1	
Contra Costa	4,272	2.77	2.45	3	
Del Norte	105	0.07	0.00	1	
El Dorado	870	0.56	0.00	1	
Fresno	1,445	0.94	0.00	1	
Humboldt	5,124	3.32	3.46	3	
Imperial	126	0.08	0.00	1	
Lake	427	0.28	0.00	1	
Los Angeles	26,968	17.49	17.49	17	
Marin	3,906	2.53	2.45	3	
Mendocino	2,554	1.66	1.41	2	
Merced	283	0.18	0.00	1	
Monterey	1,428	0.93	0.00	1	
Napa	743	0.48	0.00	1	
Nevada	1,735	1.13	1.41	1	
Orange	6,024	3.91	3.46	4	
Placer	1,145	0.74	0.00	1	
Riverside	2,250	1.46	1.41	2	
Sacramento	5,450	3.53	3.46	4	
San Bernardino	2,237	1.45	1.41	2	
San Diego	9,816	6.37	6.48	6	
San Francisco	12,558	8.14	8.49	8	
San Joaquin	764	0.50	0.00	1	
San Luis Obispo	2,234	1.45	1.41	2	
San Mateo	3,605	2.34	2.45	2	
Santa Barbara	3,774	2.45	2.45	2	
Santa Clara	6,012	3.90	3.46	4	
Santa Cruz	6,199	4.02	4.47	4	
Sonoma	6,559	4.25	4.47	4	
Stanislaus	619	0.40	0.00	1	
Ventura	3,339	2.17	2.45	2	
Yolo	1,623	1.05	1.41	1	
Total registrants	141,747			100	total delegates
Standard Divisor	1417.47				
Modified Divisor	1542	<< modify this until the "total delegates" equal 100			

* Registration Numbers as of 2-19-02: Latest on Secretary of State's website as of 3-15-02.

Meeting Logistics

Directions to Fresno Locations

See the maps on the Green Party web site.

Transportation

Public Transit: Here is the website for bus schedules, etc.: <http://www.ci.fresno.ca.us/fax/>

Amtrak: <http://www.amtrak.com/>

Airports: Fresno Yosemite International Airport: <http://www.flyfresno.org/>

For private planes -- Chandler Field: <http://www.flyfresno.org/chandler.html>

There will be no parking charges at any events or locations.

Housing

Please note: homestay opportunities will be extremely limited and hotel lodging is cheap and plentiful. For homestay information, email Jeffery Eisenger at jeffrey.eisenger@sba.gov.

The convention bureau offers a wealth of knowledge on places to stay and visit in Fresno. Here is the website for the Fresno Visitors & Convention Bureau: <http://www.fresnocvb.org/> (There are NO union hotels in Fresno.)

Sample places to stay:

Four Points Sheraton: http://reservations.lodging.com/servlet/PropertyInformation/FP_980/ink

Days Inn closest to plenary: <http://www.the.daysinn.com/fresno04751>

Motel 6 closest to plenary site: http://www.motel6.com/reservations/motel_detail.asp?MotelId=0006

Hosting Committee Contact

The Green Party of Fresno County
<http://cagreens.org/fresno/>

Jeffery Eisenger at
jeffrey.eisenger@sba.gov
(559) 496-0919