

GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA
Statewide General Assembly August 13-15 1999

The Tri Counties Region (Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo) welcome you to the Green Party of California's State plenary in Santa Barbara.

LOCATION OF MEETING: Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria Street, Santa Barbara

REGISTRATION: If registration is postmarked by August 1st, the fee will be \$15 a day. For all others who register after August 1 or at the door, the cost will be \$20 per day. Registration form is on page 29.

MEALS: Registration fee includes expanded continental breakfast (coffee, tea, juices, muffins, bagels, fruit) and full buffet lunch with beverages for each day (Sat the 14th and Sun the 15th)

DIRECTIONS: From the North: Take highway 101 to the Mission Street off ramp. Turn left under the freeway (toward mountains) Turn right at first cross street, Castillo. Follow Castillo to Victoria (a few blocks) and turn right at the Orthodox Church. The Westside Community is at the end of the street on the left. Parking is behind the Community center and on the street.

>From the South: Take highway 101 to the Mission Street off ramp and turn right (toward the mountains) Turn right at first cross street, Castillo. Follow Castillo to Victoria (a few blocks) and turn right at the Orthodox Church. The Westside Community is at the end of the street on the left. Parking is behind the Community center and on the street.

See the maps on page 30.

HOUSING-Call or e-mail Nancy Broyles (805) 963-2687 nbroyles@igc.org or John Strawn (805)-682-4050 jcs@west.net in advance if you want a home-stay.

Enclosed (page 29) is a list of hotels and motels if you would rather stay in one.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER EVENT: Saturday night dinner will be part of an-all-evening dinner party at the Kingston Island Grill, 26 W Anapamu Street (805) 962-6608. The cost for this delicious Caribbean Dinner will be \$10.00 per person which includes tip and cover charge for live music in the Cellar lounge but does not includes bar or beverages.

If driving from the Westside Community Center, follow Victoria two blocks to De La Vina, turn right on De la Vina, go two blocks and turn left on Figueroa, go one block and turn left again on Chapala. Cross Anapamu and turn right into parking lot. The Kingston Island Grille is a long yellow building at the end of the parking lot on Anapamu.

If walking, simply follow Victoria to Chapala, turn right on Chapala to Anapamu, turn left on Anapamu and the Grill will be on the left hand side of the street.

During dinner there will be a panel discussion with representatives of regional advocacy organizations regarding issues such as oil production, nuclear energy and green space which pertain to the tri-counties area and of interest to all Greens. Following the dinner/discussion people may go downstairs to dance and enjoy live music or may wish to visit and enjoy some of the night life to be found on a Saturday Night on State Street in Santa Barbara.

CHILDCARE: We will arrange childcare if we are contacted ahead of time.

COPYING:

Orex - 211 W. Carillo 966-9636 open 24 hours (locally owned 10% Green Party discount)

Kinkos - 1030 State Street 966-2700 7AM - 11PM

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

By Air: United Shuttle Svc: 1 800 241-6522

SB Airport Transportation: Superride Airport Shuttle (805) 683-9636

Preface

By Train: AMTRAK 1 800 872-7245

AMTRAK station is convenient to Santa Barbara, just off of State Street and easy connections to city buses can be made from there.

By Bus: Greyhound 1 800 231-2222

Greyhound Depot is 34 W. Carillo St a 10 block walk from the meeting site.

Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Barbara city bus) route info 683-3702

Transit Center at 1020 Chapala Street, take the number 3 bus to Anapamu and Bath.

Many Santa Barbara streets have designated bike lanes (for those who plan on riding)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Locals are required to send the list of selected delegates to the hosting committee:

John Strawn jcs@west.net

1544 Crestline Dr. Santa Barbara CA 93105

See the table on page 31 for your delegate allocation.

There are a lot of proposals in this packet. To help the meeting run more efficiently, you are encouraged to contact the presenters before the meeting with any concerns your Local may have. This is especially critical to the consent calendar items, since there is no time allotted for discussion of those items.

Locals – please don't forget to pay your dues to our Treasurer, Joe Louis Hoffman.

AGENDA

FRIDAY, 13 August

Coordinating Committee meeting -- 6:00 -- Westside Community Center, conference room, 423 West Victoria, Santa Barbara

SATURDAY, 14 August

- 8:00 Registration & Breakfast
- 8:45 Opening Ceremony
- 9:00 Delegate Orientation
- 9:15 Affirm Facilitators, Select Timer & Vibers, Affirm Agenda
- 9:30 Announcement/Soapbox
- 9:40 Approval of Minutes - San Francisco, Feb. 1999
- 9:45 Set Next Plenary (pg 4)
- 10:00 Consent Calendar – Test for consensus on:
 - 1) Resolution asking for an end to the economic embargo of Cuba (pg 5)
 - 2) Resolution on protecting the Bison (pg 5)
 - 3) Resolution on joining the coalition to protect the Sierra Nevada Forests (pg 6)
 - 4) Submissions from Initiatives Working Group (pg 6)
 - 5) Submission from Restructuring Working Group (pg 6)
 - 6) Clarifying Ballot Transfers on Coordinating Committee Elections (pg 7)
 - 7) Oppose fluoridation of public water (pg 8)
- 10:30 ASGP meeting report
- 10:45 CC Elections (pg 4)
- 11:00 Proposal on G/GPUSA affiliation (pg 10)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Select timer, vibers, S.B. housekeeping, affirm facilitators
- 1:15 Proposal by Campaigns and Candidates – 2000 Nader nomination (pg 11)
- 2:00 NOTA/state by-law change (pg 17)
- 2:45 Ballot Initiatives (pg 18)
- 3:25 Restructuring Discussion/Proposal (pg 22)
- 4:30 WG session I
 - a) Platform
 - b) Education & Media
 - c) By-Laws
 - d) Social Justice
- 5:45 Break
- 6:30 S.B. hosted dinner program – The Kingston Island Grille, 26 W. Anapamu St. Santa Barbara (805) 962-6608 (see enclosed flier)

SUNDAY, 15 August

- 8:00 Registration/breakfast
- 9:00 Affirm facilitators, select timers/viber, affirm agenda, Housekeeping
- 9:15 Announcements/Soapbox
- 9:30 Treasurer's Report
- 9:45 Proposal for Electing County Councils using Choice voting – Electoral Reform WG (pg 26)
- 10:45 WG Session II
 - a) Electoral Reform
 - b) Goals & Strategy
 - c) Alliance-Building
 - d) Ballot Initiatives (Review)
- 12:00 Lunch and Restructuring Working Group meeting
- 1:00 Spokesperson report/Affirmation of Sara Amir as third spokes
- 1:15 Project 2000 presentation
- 1:45 WG Session III
 - a) Campaigns & Candidates
 - b) Ecology
 - c) Finance
 - d) International
- 3:00 Affirmation of new WG coordinators, WG reports
- 3:30 Closing Ceremony
- 4:00 Adjourn

SET NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We rely on Locals to volunteer to host our General Assemblies and Gathering, which occur on a quarterly basis. The Coordinating Committee lays out the schedule of meetings for the entire year and encourages Locals to volunteer well in advance.

Circumstances have it that both Locals that were considering hosting the November General Assembly have determined they are not capable of doing so. This leaves us with an immediate need for a host for our next state meeting. **Please discuss this in your Local and see if you could host the next meeting.** If so, send an email to the CC at gpca-cc@greens.org, or call one of the secretaries – Jim (408) 432-9148, or Linda (530) 620-4364.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE VACANCIES

As is frequently the case, we have CC vacancies that must be addressed by you, the Green Party Locals. The CC consists of Regional Reps (elected by Locals in each region) and At-Large Reps (elected by the general assembly). The current vacancies are:

At-Large Reps – 2 vacancies

Regional Reps – 4 vacancies:

- Los Angeles Region
- Sac/Sierra Region
- Santa Cruz/Monterey Region
- Shasta Region

The CC is the body that coordinates and acts on behalf of the whole Green Party of the State of California. With the accelerated emergence of the Greens as a force in the governments worldwide, it behooves us to be as thoughtful and conscious as we can in the appointments that we make to this Committee.

CC membership is defined in the bylaws as follows:

The State Coordinating Committee will be comprised of 20 voting members. Fourteen members will be selected to provide regional balance. Eight members will come from the largest regions (2 each), with regional size being calculated annually by number of registered green party voters on the first registration count after January 1st of each year. Six members will come from the remaining regions (1 each). Members will also be balanced by gender, age, culture as much as possible and the committee will have six additional at-large members who will be chosen with this balancing in mind. In addition, the Liaison to the Secretary of State and the Treasurer shall be non-voting members of the State Coordinating Committee, and may not concurrently hold a voting seat on the Committee.

For the August General Assembly, we have received one nomination for an At-Large seat:

Jo Chamberlain, Green Party of San Mateo County Council member and GPSMC representative to GPCA.

I would like to serve on the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of California to contribute to our continued growth through organization and operations within the GPCA. My professional career has been in Silicon Valley startups with little funding, but lots of talent and more enthusiasm. My experience and skills are in organization and operations.

Talent and enthusiasm, but little funding, are facts of life for the Green Party of California, too. We have an excellent organization, talented people, and great enthusiasm for our common cause. Through hard work, planning and strong leadership our key values can become part of our local, state and national governments. Please vote for me as at-large representative to the Coordinating Committee during the August Plenary in Santa Barbara.

Jo Chamberlain
joc@resilience.com

PROPOSAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: United States Embargo of Cuba

Eldon "Bud " Boothe, Santa Barbara Green Party
Member, International Working Group

CONTACT: Nancy Broyles
740 Flora Vista Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 963-2687

PROPOSAL

The Green Party of California opposes the US government's current embargo of Cuba. We support:

- HR 130, "Free Trade With Cuba"(this would eliminate the embargo and is the superior of the two House bills)
- Senate Bill S1391, titled "Cuban Women and Children Humanitarian Relief Act" also deserves our support.

Green Party members can aid this proposal by contacting Senators and Representatives with letters to the editor of local newspapers, contacting various media outlets and by word of mouth.

PROPOSAL FROM THE ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: Preserving the oldest free-roaming buffalo herd without quarantining or killing

BACKGROUND: Less than 2400 buffalo are left in Yellowstone National Park after one-third of the herd (1,084) were killed two winters ago. Buffalo are killed when they leave the Park following traditional migration routes onto public lands in Montana.

Montana has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for Yellowstone buffalo, despite scientific evidence that brucellosis (the excuse for the slaughter) has never been transmitted from buffalo to cattle in a natural setting.

Less than a dozen cattle ranchers (1,000 cattle) enjoy grazing rights on public lands around Yellowstone. Yet, Montana insists on putting cattle-ranching interests above wildlife interests.

PROPOSAL: Endorse Plan B for Yellowstone bison management that follows:

1. Allow buffalo to roam freely within the Yellowstone ecosystem.
2. Calculate the ecological carrying capacity for buffalo and the other native ungulates in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and manage to maintain these population levels.
3. Give buffalo preference over cattle on public lands.
4. Vaccinate bison calves against brucellosis with a dart or oral vaccine.
5. Limit grazing permits on public lands in the conflict zones to livestock that cannot transmit brucellosis, or cancel these federally-subsidized grazing permits and offer existing permit holders alternative grazing elsewhere.
6. Vaccinate cattle against brucellosis in the conflict zone.
7. Offer the 9 ranchers with cattle on private lands in the conflict zone compensation not to raise cow-calves until brucellosis is eliminated from buffalo.
8. For ranchers in the conflict zone who insist on raising cows, haze buffalo away from those private lands when cattle are present there, or fence those cattle (with buffalo-proof fencing to prevent contact between the two).
9. Annually test the few cattle herds within the conflict zone to ensure they remain brucellosis-free.
10. Urge Montana to accept the federal government's definition of "low-risk" buffalo.

11. Urge all States to respect the brucellosis classification assigned to states by the federal government.
12. Modify Montana's zero tolerance policy to one more consistent with modern disease management.

TIME LINE: A vote to endorse Plan B as soon as possible

RESOURCES: None required

Jo Chamberlain
(650) 726-1949
joc@resilience.com

PROPOSAL FROM THE ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that the Green Party of California become a member group of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, stating our advocacy of permanent protection for the remaining ancient forests, wild lands, and wild rivers of the Sierra Nevada. Membership in the Campaign will inform us of legislation and Forest Service planning activities that affect the ecological integrity of the forest of the Sierra Nevada.

TIME LINE: Upon the GPCA's joining of SNFPC at the August 1999 plenary meeting in Santa Barbara, the Coordinating Committee will write a letter to the U.S. Forest Service informing them of our advocacy for managing the national forests of the Sierra Nevada for ecological integrity, not commercial extraction. Management for ecological integrity demands the permanent protection of all the remaining ancient forests, wild lands, and wild rivers, plus restoration of the matrix lands.

RESOURCES: There is no membership fee requirement for the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, just agreement with its objectives of permanent protection for remaining ancient forests, wild lands, and wild rivers.

Green Party volunteer Bob Brister will keep the Party informed of legislation and Forest Service management proposals upon which the Party may comment. He will also post on the Green Party of California internet forum information about forest activists meetings in which Party members may wish to participate.

Bob Brister
(559) 641-7427
bbrister@igc.org

PROPOSAL FROM THE INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP

See the proposal from the Initiatives Working Group.
Initiatives number 1, 3, 4 and 5 are consent calendar items.

PROPOSAL FROM THE AD-HOC RESTRUCTURING WORKING GROUP

WG Statement of Purpose

FROM: Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group Subject: Conformance with By-Laws/Completion of WG 'Statement of Purpose/Mission Statements'

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that each WG submit a Statement of Purpose (aka 'mission statement') for approval by the General Assembly, at either the November, 1999 or February, 2000 state meetings. Statements should be no longer than 300 words.

DISCUSSION: This requirement is already in the by-laws. But it has not been enforced. It appears that now people would like it be enforced - "approving 'Statements of Purpose' for WG" is something that many people asked for during the Orange County restructuring brainstorming session.

SECTION 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSES 7-3.1 General responsibilities Every standing committee must have a statement of purpose, scope, and powers. This statement must be approved as follows: for each standing committee, by a General Assembly; for each ad hoc committee, by a General Assembly or by the Coordinating Committee; for each sub-committee, by the General Assembly or the committee of which it is a subcommittee.

Approving 'Statements of Purpose' would address several concerns that have been raised: it would clarify the purpose of each WG, increasing WG coordination and continuity. With a clearer purpose, WG could do better long-term planning, as well as coordinate better with the CC on agenda planning. WG meetings time could also be better used, because discussions would be more focused. All of this would also help the party better meet its long-term strategic goals.

Voting on Statement of Purposes could also give the party the opportunity to decide which WG to keep and which not. Current by-laws (Article VII: Section 1. 7-1.1) say "A standing committee may be established or dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly of the Green Party of California."

The desire for such Statements of Purpose was one of the strongest heard concerns during the Orange County restructuring discussion. Since this is already in the by-laws and is something people seem to want, it makes sense to ask for the WG to begin work on it now, and promise that some agenda time will be available for it in the next two meetings. Drafts for all WG are encouraged to be turned in for November to receive input.

PROPOSAL FROM THE ELECTORAL REFORM WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: Correcting language on transferring ballots that was mistakenly adopted when the plenary adopted the CC elections bylaw on 2/27/99.

CONTACT: Caleb Kleppner, 415-389-9739,calebk@igc.org

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND: The plenary adopted on February 27,1999 a bylaw for filling vacancies on the Coordinating Committee (CC).Several people wished to include language that lays out exactly how ballots are transferred when choice voting is used. The presenters accepted a friendly amendment to include language from the San Diego bylaws that lays out the procedure for transferring ballots. Unfortunately, it turns out that the language in the San Diego bylaws does not specify a *proportional* voting system, so the actual language adopted conflicted with the intent of the presenters, which was to use a proportional representation system when there are two or more candidates for two or more vacancies.

The purpose of this clarification is simply to substitute correct, complete language in place of the language mistakenly adopted. It does not change the intent of the bylaw section.

TIME LINE: Correct bylaw now. Apply it the next time we elect at-large CC members.

RESOURCES: None required.

PROPOSAL: Substitute the following language for Bylaw7-1.4c:

7-1.4 c) Choice Voting When Two or more At-large seats are Vacant and Two or More Nominees Seek Office

When two or more at-large seats are vacant and two or more nominees seek office, each delegate will be provided a written secret ballot containing the names of the nominees seeking office. The names will appear in random order. The ballot shall also include a "No other candidate" (NOC) option. The delegates will rank the nominees along with the NOC option in order of preference. The ballots will be tabulated utilizing a "choice" voting system with fractional transfers and the use of a Hare threshold based on the number of vacant at-large seats. Choice Voting is the Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation described in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design. (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). First published 1997. Second edition. Stockholm, Sweden.) The Hare threshold is the percentage of votes equal to 1 divided by the number of vacant at-large seats (1/N).

No nominee will be seated who does not cross the threshold before NOC.

LANGUAGE ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY IN FEBRUARY.

Note that the sections on ballot transfers occur at the bottom of 7-1.4.

7-1.4 c) Choice Voting When Two or more At-large seats are Vacant and Two or More Nominees Seek Office

When two or more at-large seats are vacant and two or more nominees seek office, each delegate will be provided a written secret ballot containing the names of the nominees seeking office. The names will appear in random order. The ballot shall also include a "No other candidate" (NOC) option. The delegates will rank the nominees along with the NOC option in order of preference. The ballots will be tabulated utilizing a "choice" voting system which includes the use of a Hare threshold based on the number of vacant at-large seats. The Hare threshold is the percentage of votes equal to 1 divided by the number of vacant at-large seats (1/N). No nominee will be seated who does not cross the threshold before NOC.

Ballots will be transferred according to the following process, as spelled out in section 5-4.7b-f of the San Diego bylaws, which read as follows:

The preference votes are then used to eliminate the low preference candidates. The ballots are sorted by first preference votes. The candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated, and their ballots are 'transferred' to the candidate listed as the next preference. This process is repeated until the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

If while eliminating low-preference candidates, two or more candidates are tied for last place, all those tied are eliminated and their ballots transferred to the candidate listed as the next preference.

If while transferring ballots, the candidate listed as the next preference has already been eliminated, then the ballot shall be transferred to the most-preferred choice among those not yet eliminated;

If while transferring ballots, all candidates listed on a ballot have been eliminated, the ballot is set aside;

In the event of a tie in the winning position, the candidate(s) with the most first preference votes is elected. If still a tie, then the second preference votes are used, then third preference votes, etc..

PROPOSAL FROM THE ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: Opposition to fluoride in public water.

PRESENTER: Saundra McMillan, (562) 597-1447, sandymcm@csulb.edu

BACKGROUND: To anyone who has not researched the fluoridation issue, it can come as quite a shock to discover that fluoride is a toxic military and industrial by-product pollutant which dentists and the public have been brain-washed into believing is good stuff! But that is because of the stunning governmental-industrial public relations campaign designed originally by Edward Bernays. (Bernays--nephew of Sigmund Freud--studied and wrote about propaganda and mind control. He is considered by many the father of "public relations." Although there are other contenders for that title, Bernays was one of the earliest master-minds of the modern public relations industry. It has been written that he was particularly proud of his fluoridation campaign and his campaigns on behalf of tobacco companies to recruit women to smoking.) For an understanding of how the fluoridation campaign unfolded and how it has been perpetuated along with some information on the hazards of fluoride, see the Joel Griffiths article in Covert Action listed below under references.

For a comprehensive overview of the scientific fraud perpetuated on the American public, as well as information about how European countries have rejected the ploy of fluoridation, see the Gary Null article referenced below. Null is an investigative health and science journalist who has written and spoken extensively on the subject. There probably doesn't exist a purportedly "scientific" study supporting fluoride as safe and effective which hasn't been examined and debunked by Null in consultation with knowledgeable scientists.

Any persons who seek to educate themselves about the issue should at least have a passing acquaintance with Dr. John Yiamouyiannis who has been speaking about the ineffectiveness and hazards of fluoridation for decades. While the article below reviews a single issue, his comprehensive works are available in health food markets and libraries.

The Earth Island Journal pieces expand the discussion into the larger environmental arena and provide resources addressing all aspects for laypersons to educate themselves readily. Additional articles and web addresses, popular and scientific, are also provided for study:

A reprint of "Fluoride: Commie Plot or Capitalist Ploy" by Joel Griffiths which originally appeared in Covert Action, No. 42, Fall 1992: <http://www.scruz.net/~paul/issues/Fluoride.html>

A couple of other interesting articles by Joel Griffiths "Fluoride , Teeth, and the Atomic Bomb" <http://www.holisticmed.com/fluoride/toxic.html>, and from the Earth Island Journal "Fluoride: Industry's Toxic Coup" <http://www.econet.apc.org/ei/journal/Spring 1998/34c.htm>.

(Additionally the Earth Island Journal of Summer 1998 contains a follow-up "Special 16-page Report" center pull-out not available on the web. Has excellent articles on the environmental damage of fluoride; dental fluorosis, hip fractures, nerve damage, and other such related health problems. Contains an excellent list of educational resources.)

An article by noted health investigative reporter Gary Null, "The Fluoridation Fiasco": <http://www.trifax.org/fluoride/fiasco.html>

A review by the Safe Water Foundation of one of Dr. John Yiamouyiannis' books, Fluoride, the Aging Factor: <http://www.i-wayco.com/niin/knowledgereport/fluoride/fluoride.html> Additional web resources:

A 109-page study by the town's Board of Selectmen: "Should Natick Fluoridate?"

<<http://www.trifax.org/fluoride/natick.html>> <http://www.fluoride-journal.com>

<http://www.cadvision.com/fluoride> <http://www.sonic.net/~kryptox/fluoride.htm> <http://www.saveteeth.org>

PROPOSAL:

Whereas, the preponderance of scientific research clearly reveals that the long term detriments to dental health of using fluoride in attempt to prevent cavities outweigh any short-term benefits (which have actually, in fact, not even been scientifically established); whereas, fluoride is a highly toxic substance, largely resultant from industrial waste by-products and occasionally from naturally occurring instances--to which most people today are already over-exposed--resulting in numerous severe illnesses as well as extensive environmental damage; whereas, ingesting any medication should be a matter of individual choice in consultation with one's own health professional; whereas, the public water supply should be as clean and pure as possible and free from all additives except those of absolute necessity and lowest toxicity to render the water potable; be it, therefore, resolved that the State of California Green Party opposes the addition of fluoride to any and all of the public water supplies in the state of California.

Note: There is no timeline per se; this is an ongoing battle which is currently at crises stage, though, because of AB733 "implementation" attempts. No expense except in time and energy of individual Greens who want to help pressure city council persons and state legislators. A Green position will be very helpful to various individuals and groups working on the issue.

Proposal to Join ASGP and GPUSA

PRESENTER:

Coordinating Committee (with no recommendation for or against)

CONTACT:

Ed Shacklett 242 W Ramona Ave., Ventura, CA 93001

Nancy Broyles 740 Flora Vista Drive, Santa Barbara, Ca 93109

SUBJECT:

We are asking that the California State Green Party join both ASGP and GPUSA in a single proposal

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

The Green Movement in this county started with an organization calling itself Green Committees of Correspondence. The name of this group was later changed to Greens/Green Party USA. They have put on the national meetings for the Green movement continuously since 1987 which was in Amherst, Massachusetts. The second National Green Gathering in 1989 was in Portland, Oregon included the first delegated Green Congress in the US. where the name was changed to Green Committees of Correspondence. The Green Congress in 1990 at Estes Park, Colorado adopted the first National Green Program. In 1991, in Elkins, West Virginia, the Green Congress changed the name again to the Greens/Green Party USA and made commitment to building a movement-based Green Party in the what was active in both Electoral campaigns (the party) and issue activism (the movement). At annual Green Gatherings since 1991, the Green Congress has amended the Green Program, amended the party structure, and set organizing and action priorities for the coming year.

There are 11 reasons for joining the Greens/Green Party USA, but we plan to only outline them but the full text is available.

1. The 10 Key Values originated with this organization in the United States.
2. Every affiliated local chapter and state party receives free of charge the monthly Green Bulletin the internal bulletin with national meeting minutes with news and views of party affairs, financial reports. Included in every member's dues are two subscriptions to; Green Politics a quarterly newspaper and Synthesis/Regeneration, a magazine of Green Social Thought.
3. The Greens/Green Party USA coordinates Green Action Networks on issues in which Greens want to coordinate action such as Genetically Modified Organisms.
4. The Green Party encourages local chapters and state Green Parties to run Green Party candidates in elections at every level.
5. G/GPUSA is structured around the principle of Democratic decentralism. Grassroots democracy in the party requires grassroots organizations. It encourages all its member to join or form local parties.
6. In almost every state, restrictive ballot access laws makes it easier for officially recognized Green Parties to place Green candidates on the ballot than to do it by special petition. To assist in this effort GPUSA's Electoral Action Working Group is organizing a team of canvassers, petitioners, and organizers to assist state Green Parties to attain ballot status.
7. The Green Congress is the broadest delegated assembly and highest decision making body of GPUSA. It is composed of representatives of both local chapters, based on their active membership, and state parties.
8. Between Green Congresses, the Green National Committee (GNC) has the authority to conduct the affairs of GPUS consonant with the decision of the Green congress.
9. GPUSA recognizes and supports party caucuses of members dealing with discrimination and oppression based on their race, gender, sexual orientation and age.

10. Green has an international Working Group which disseminates information and coordinates GPUSA participation in international Green actions, conferences and associations with Federation of European Green Parties.

11. Green unity supports an inclusive, unified, national Green Party with a grassroots-democratic structure. The lesson from other countries is that competing Green Parties are politically marginalized, but united they are politically powerful.

These ideas form the basic structure of the G/GPUSA and we ask for your carefully consideration.

PROPOSAL: The purpose of this proposal is to reach a positive decision for all Greens here and abroad and to come together in the spirit in which all parties were formed. We sincerely want to end the divisive problem of two opposing groups. We see the ASGP as serving a different purpose with its political platform, whereas the GPUSA is both political and movement oriented and organized through a clearinghouse. Rather than being a threat to one another, coming together in the California State Green Party offers great strength to Greens over all. Therefore we propose that California State Green Party endorse both parties equally.

Proposal on Candidates for Presidential Primary

FROM: Campaigns & Candidates Working Group
Orval Osborne, San Luis Obispo, coordinator
(805) 545-9838 oosborne@igc.org

SUBJECT: Possible Green Party of California candidate(s) in the March,2000 California Presidential Primary

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:

- 1) That the August 14th-15th, 1999 General Assembly of the Green Party of California (GPCA) direct the GPCA Coordinating Committee to tell the California Secretary of State to place Ralph Nader's name on the March,2000 Green presidential primary ballot.
- 2) That the August 14th-15th, 1999 General Assembly of the Green Party of California (GPCA) confirm a time line for consideration of other potential candidates, before the November, 1999 deadline to place names on the March, 2000 Green presidential primary ballot.

INTRODUCTION:

On March 7th, 2000, the state of California will conduct its presidential primary. Relevant to the GPCA possibly placing one or more candidates on its presidential primary ballot, the following information is contained in this report:

- 1) the 1999/2000 legal timeline for any potential presidential primary candidate for the Green Party of California (GPCA).2) a review of the process the GPCA used in 1995/1996 to place a name on its presidential primary ballot.3) a proposal for the August, 1999 GPCA General Assembly to put Ralph Nader's name on the March, 2000 GPCA primary ballot.4) a proposed timeline for consideration of any additional candidates before the November 8th deadline.

1999 - 2000

A candidate can appear on the GPCA March, 2000 presidential primary ballot in one of two ways:

- ◆ An interested candidate can circulate nomination papers and gather a number of signatures from registered Greens, that is at least equal to, but not less than 1% of the number of GPCA registrants as of October 24,1999. By that date, the GPCA will likely have over 100,000 registrants, meaning roughly 1,000 nomination signatures would be necessary. Those signatures would have to be gathered between November 24th and December24th.
- ◆ The Coordinating Committee can notify the Secretary of State whom the party wants directly on the ballot, without requiring the candidate(s)to gather any signatures. The time period for this notification is between October 9th and November 8th, 1999.

The 'direct placement' process used by the Secretary of State for the GPCA is the same used for all 'minor' parties in California. It is different than that used for the Democrats and Republicans. Those parties' candidates are judged by the Secretary of State on the stature/viability of their candidacy, based in significant part on the amount of media they receive. Towards this end, the Secretary of State's office monitors on a daily basis, the nation's major daily newspapers, as well as numerous internet sites, television and radiobroadcasts.

For minor parties like the Greens, the Secretary of State's office recognizes that they simply don't get comparable media attention. Therefore they don't require it. Instead, they ask the parties themselves to make the judgment for placement on the primary ballot. The Secretary of State will be sending a letter to the GPCA in coming weeks detailing this. It is the same process that the GPCA followed in 1995.

- ◆ Although a candidate may appear in the GPCA presidential primary, that winner does not automatically qualify for the November general election ballot. According to the GPCA's own rules, the primary results are only advisory. The GPCA conducts a separate presidential nomination convention later in the year (probably May) that is actually binding for the November ballot.

On the national level, there will also be a presidential nomination convention. It likely will be held June 24th-25th, 2000 in Denver, hosted by the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP).

1995-1996

In November, 1995 the Green Party of California placed Ralph Nader's name on the March, 1996 primary ballot. The process was as follows:

At the September, 1995 GPCA state meeting (CSU Northridge), the General Assembly approved the following procedure:

- 1) The Campaigns & Candidates Working Group (C&C) would identify potential Green presidential candidates of a widely-recognized, highly-respected stature.

Both Ralph Nader and Jesse Jackson were discussed as possibilities at that point, as they were both contemplating independent campaigns at that point. Others of a similar ilk like Jim Hightower and Dolores Huerta had already indicated they would not run.

The mandate to the C&C was to consider requests from such potential candidates - if they came forward - but not to solicit them.

- 2) Once the C&C identified potential candidates, it would communicate its recommendations to the state Coordinating Committee;

- 3) The Coordinating Committee would then seek a vote of the state party, in order to determine whether any candidate's name should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the Green presidential primary ballot.

How was the vote taken?

When the 1995/96 process was approved in September, 1995, there was no additional state GPCA meeting between September, 1995 and the subsequent November 22nd, 1995 deadline to report to the Secretary of State. In addition, the communication from Nader, indicating his interest in appearing on the GPCA ballot, came at the beginning of November. As such, an additional, special nomination meeting was ruled out, because the last minute timing was likely to discourage participation.

The method chosen instead, was to utilize the state party's existing by-laws process for endorsement of initiatives between state meetings - a process where individual counties are polled and the results compiled as if it were a vote at a state meeting.

In early November, 1995 this process was followed - all of the active counties were polled and every one responding supported placing Nader on the ballot. The Coordinating Committee then forwarded Nader's name to the Secretary of State.

Nader ran unopposed in the March, 1996 primary. He was subsequently nominated by the GPCA General Assembly, during its June 29-30, 1996 meeting in Berkeley, to appear on the GPCA ballot in the November, 1996 general election. The vote was 72-3 in favor.

Nader was also nominated on a national level in 1996, at the Green Presidential nomination convention in Los Angeles, August 20th. He received approximately 240,000 votes in California and about 690,000 nationwide, finishing fourth overall in both cases.

Proposal #1 -

That the August 14th-15th, 1999 General Assembly of the Green Party of California (GPCA) direct the GPCA Coordinating Committee to tell the California Secretary of State to place Ralph Nader's name on the March, 2000 Green presidential primary ballot.

Analysis: In 1999 the California Green presidential situation will be some what different than in 1996 - there will be a state meeting before the November deadline - in August, in Santa Barbara, where delegates can discuss placing someone on the March, 2000 GPCA primary ballot.

However, regardless of whether the General Assembly decides to put anyone on the primary ballot or not in August, this process does not preclude further consideration of potential candidates by the GPCA between August and the November deadline. In that instance, the same polling process of the counties could be used that the GPCA used in 1995. Furthermore, even after this deadline, there remains the signature route alluded to above.

That being said, thus far one candidate has directly contacted the GPCA to seek placement on the March, 2000 GPCA primary ballot - Ralph Nader. On June 24th, the Green Party of California received the following communication from Nader, expressing his interest:

*"Dear Green Party of California Campaigns & Candidates Working Group,
Greens in California (and across the United States), have asked whether I will seek the Green Party presidential nomination, and if so, what kind of campaign I would wage.
I am considering seeking the nomination, but will not make that decision until early 2000. If I do seek - receive the - nomination, I will pursue an aggressive, dedicated and thorough national campaign, that also meets the Federal Election Commission requirements.
As part of such a campaign, I envision campaign events in every state and at least 100 days of campaigning on the road. State organizing groups would have significant advance notice of my visits. I would also spend additional time doing radio and television programs from Washington, DC.
Such an active campaign will have the objective of strengthening our nation's democracy by strengthening the Green Party movement at the local, state and national levels; by emphasizing the problems of, and remedies for, the excessive concentration of corporate power and wealth in our country, by highlighting the important tools of democracy needed for the American people as voters/citizens, workers, consumers, taxpayers, and small savers/investors
If there are Greens who support my seeking the nomination, I encourage them to expand the number of volunteers and increase the time spent working to build the Green Party this year in order to advance the Party's "Key Values" and to increase the likelihood of ballot access in all fifty states.
In California, where the Green Party is already on the ballot, I understand that a decision must be made by November, 1999, whether to have my name placed on the Green Party's March, 2000 presidential primary ballot. If the Green Party of California supports my seeking their nomination, I agree to have my name appear on their primary ballot.*

Sincerely,

Ralph Nader"

The Campaigns & Candidates Working Group recommends that the August GPCA General Assembly direct the GPCA Coordinating Committee to tell the California Secretary of State to place Ralph Nader's name on the March, 2000 Green presidential primary ballot. This recommendation is based on the following six reasons, taken as a whole:

- ◆ Nader's record on the issues• his stature as a national figure• his prior Green Party candidacy• his continued base of support within the GPCA• his continued support for the Green Party since the 1996 election, and• because Nader followed the process and formally indicated his interest to the GPCA

What about other possible candidates?

Ralph Nader is the only person who requested a decision by the GPCA and the only person recommended at present by the C&C. However, as stated above, this does not preclude further consideration of other potential candidates between August and November. (See Proposal #2 below).

When about other potential candidates? The GPCA process does not give the state party the mandate to solicit candidates, but only to consider requests. The Association of State Green Parties however, of which the GPCA is an affiliate, established a Presidential Exploratory Committee(PEC) that sent out questionnaires to approximately 25 individuals who had been recommended by Greens from across (GPCA member John Strawn is a member of the PEC).

Nader replied to the ASGP's questionnaire indicating his interest in a letter similar to that he sent to the GPCA. Nader also spoke at the June ASGP meeting in Connecticut, answering questions from the over 100Greens in attendance about what kind of campaign he'd run. (See "Get ready for Nader 2000 " in Appendix below).

Three others also responded affirmatively to the questionnaire -Marianne Williamson, Ron Ouelette, and Stephen Gaskin. They are discussed individually below. (Note - the responses from Williamson, Gaskin and Ouelette to the ASGP questionnaire have been circulated on the GPCA list-serve 'grns-cal-forum' by John Strawn.)

Also discussed below is Michael Moore. As of early July, Moore had not responded to the ASGP questionnaire, and had not indicated to the GPCA that he is interested. Nevertheless, the possibility that he might run generated interest among Greens in California and other states.

- ◆ Marianne Williamson. A well-known author of several books, including 'A Course in Miracles', Williamson originally replied saying she might like to be the Green Party presidential nominee. Since then, she is also strongly considering seeking the vice-presidential position, while still not ruling out the presidential. As of early July, she had not yet made an affirmative decision on either.
- ◆ Ouelette. A 'rank and file' member of the Green Party of Connecticut, Ouelette had expressed interest early on, but after hearing Nader's speech at the ASGP meeting in Connecticut, pulled back.
- ◆ Stephen Gaskin. Gaskin is the founder of The Farm in Tennessee, a cooperative community. Gaskin replied that he is definitely interested in seeking the Green nomination across the US. He is also specifically interested in California. However, he is not yet asking the GPCA August General Assembly to make a decision about placing him on the Green presidential primary ballot. Rather, he understands that we have the 80% rule and that not a lot of people know him. Therefore, he has decided to try and build support in the party first. Then he'll consider asking to be in the polling process in October (that process is described in Proposal #2 below). In addition to the polling process, there is also the signature-gathering route referred to above, which is available to all candidates.

Gaskin's letter to the ASGP was posted to the grns-cal-forum in May and another one from him was posted in late June. Gaskin has asked that his contact information be given out: Stephen7@usit.net or (931) 964-2519.

- ◆ Michael Moore. Moore is the well-known writer for the movie 'Roger and Me' and the television show 'TV Nation', both which focused on the rights of workers as well as the unaccountability of large corporations. There has been discussion on both the GPCA and US Green list-serves about 'drafting' Moore. However, Moore has given no public indication that he is interested in seeking the Green nomination, nor has he returned the ASGP PEC questionnaire, nor has he contacted the GPCA with any interest on his part. Like Gaskin and others, Moore could ask the party to be considered in October and/or there is the signature route.

Proposal #2:

That the August 14th-15th, 1999 General Assembly of the Green Party of California (GPCA) confirm a time line for consideration of other potential candidates before the deadline to communicate with the California Secretary of State.

After the August GPCA General Assembly, there may be other potential candidates the GPCA will want to consider. Just as in 1995, the counties can be polled and their votes tabulated as if the vote took place during a General Assembly. The following time line is proposed:

September 13th: Campaigns & Candidates Working Group Deadline for interested candidates to communicate with the Campaigns and Candidates Working Group. Communication must be more than just verbal -either written, fax, email.

September 20th: Coordinating Committee The Campaigns and Candidates Working Group communicates its recommendations to the Coordinating Committee.

October 1st - October 31st: The Counties The counties are given a full month to meet and vote on recommended candidates.

November 1st: The Coordinating Committee The results of the counties are placed into the hands of Coordinating Committee for verification. The Coordinating Committee then ensures that all necessary communication with the Secretary of State's office is completed before the deadline.

APPENDIX:

Get ready for Nader 2000, Signs are increasingly pointing to a second Green Party presidential bid by Ralph Nader By Patrick Mazza, Green Party of Seattle, June, 1999

Appearing at a Connecticut meeting of the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) in early June, Nader gave California delegates permission to enter his name in next year's California presidential primary. Nader, who was urged for two decades to run for president before he allowed his name to be used in the 1992 presidential primary, does not hand out such permissions lightly.

California Green Party rules and state election laws made Nader's permission necessary. But he will make no official announcement until January, he said. Nonetheless, Nader sounded very much like a candidate, down to repeated skewerings of Al Gore for his corporate kowtows to industries ranging from drugs to automobiles.

Nader took pains to resolve nagging questions remaining from his 1996 presidential bid. A number of Greens have been skeptical about a new Nader candidacy because of his self-imposed 1996 \$5,000 spending limit and a sense he did not seriously campaign. A better organized and funded campaign could have pushed Nader beyond the one percent he received, many believe.

He seemed to agree. Prefacing many points with "if I run -- IFRN," Nader promised no limits on fundraising this time and "100 days on the ground" with at least three major appearances in every state where he is on the ballot. He would aim to "catapult the Green Party over the five percent level." Noted Nader, "Six to seven percent is not out of the realm of the possible."

Nader backed that with a powerful electoral arithmetic. In 1996, he said, polls showed only seven percent were aware he was running. Nader, in effect, was the choice of at least one in seven of those people. And he was only on the ballot in about half the states. A 2000 race would see him on many more state ballots, 40-45, with earlier and better organized petitioning efforts, he said.

Nader called on Greens to "think unconventionally," to invent "new ways to campaign and catch the imagination of people...The worst thing is to have a new party do the same thing as the old parties."

For example, Greens should hold not only fund-raisers, but also hour-raisers where people pledge volunteer time, "which is better than money." Nader also said "IFRN," campaign appearances will include detailed information on local issues to give them added visibility. Greens will receive confirmed campaign dates at least two months in advance to organize strong local appearances, Nader promised.

As in '96, Nader would continue to focus on "building fundamental structural policies for democracy." At the same time, in contrast to "the poverty of ideas" coming from the corporate parties, Nader would showcase new

ideas that work, "the scenario of the possible. For example, people don't know how economic solar has become. We can translate a lot of this information."

Nader made clear a fundamental goal of any 2000 presidential race is to build the Green Party. "I would like to see a tenfold increase in every criteria you use to measure the Green Party...people, money, candidates...Then it's really reached critical mass for the future."

"Strong citizen institutions and a strong Green Party go hand in hand," Nader said.

Though Nader would be a strong favorite with Greens "IFRN," his nomination is not a done deal. Nader said Greens would still have to put up with some "idiosyncrasies" -- He will remain an independent and not join the Green Party. "It's very important to have people be for the Green Party as well as of the Green Party." Greens will have to decide how they feel about that.

Scott McClarty, a D.C. Green, distributed a flyer previous to Nader's appearance asking, "But is Mr. Nader really Green?" Also a human rights activist, McClarty and others have strongly criticized Nader for a '96comment to William Safire that he would not discuss "gonadal politics." The right-wing columnist was baiting Nader with a series of lifestyle-issue questions.

Responding to a question from the floor by McClarty, Nader raised the "gonadal politics" comment himself. In 1996, Nader said, except for that Safire column, he was successful at keeping press coverage on his basic message. "I don't want focuses on structural abuses to be blurred by having an opinion on everything. You allow the press to destroy your message that way. I don't want to be diverted from these basic structural issues."

Added Nader, "Anyone who knows my work for 40 years knows I don't turn my back on underdogs or the repressed."

State party delegates agreed that the nominating convention slated for June 2000 will consider a "none of the above" option -- Not all Greens are convinced the party should run a presidential campaign next year. And two other possible nominees have expressed interest. Marianne Williamson, author of numerous books including, "The Healing of America," said her issues would include restoring democracy, campaign reform, genetically-engineered food, military budget cuts and a "Marshall Plan for inner cities." Connecticut Green Ron Ouellette named among his top issues corporate ownership of the election process, living wages, a ban on weapons of mass destruction and renegotiation of trade treaties. Film maker Michael Moore was reportedly mulling his response to the Presidential Exploratory Committee.

Even refusals to the Exploratory Committee gave strong encouragement to Green Party efforts. Noam Chomsky and Lani Guinier said they wanted continued dialogue with the Greens. Jim Hightower wrote back, "Congratulations to the Green Party for its grassroots efforts to build a real choice into America's closed political structure. Nothing will change until people themselves take charge of the process, and the Greens are showing the way to get a hold of the 2000 presidential process."

"I am very supportive of the idea, the effort, the initiative," said author Paul Hawken. "I am very grateful and honored you would ask."

"I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to me to be asked to consider being the Green Party candidate," said Lester Brown of Worldwatch Institute. "Were I less constrained by circumstances, I might well respond positively."

Though "I'm not really presidential material," author Bill McKibben responded, "I've read the green platform before, and agree with nearly all of it. I hope that you will work hard to keep the focus on environmental issues, particularly climate change, which is the most crucial, and the one our leaders most like to duck. I think you have a crucial role to play -- maybe more in the 2000 election than ever, what with the need to keep Gore's feet to the fire."

Ralph Nader looks ready to flame Gore and other corporate politicians next year, and stoke a powerful Green fire that will burn long beyond2000

Proposal on Election Law and the Green Party Primary

SUBJECT: Possible changes in Green Party primary election rules.

FROM: By-Laws Working Group Michael Monnot, Berkeley, Coordinator Subject:

DISCUSSION: Over the last six months, the By-Laws Working Group has been discussing ways to promote broader group participation among party members, regarding who might become a Green Party candidate, particularly on the state level.

In earlier years, the GPCA had two processes to deal with this. In 1992, the GPCA successfully sued the state of California for the right to have None of the Above (NOTA) on its primary ballot, as well as the right to have 'open or closed' primaries.

The most noteworthy example of NOTA being used was in 1994, when NOTA won overwhelmingly for Governor over two candidates who had filed to run in the Green primary. Thus, the Green Party did not have a candidate for Governor that year. (Note - the Campaigns & Candidates WG had conducted a 14 month long process to look at which statewide races the GPCA should enter in 1994. Its recommendations were to only contest for Lt. Governor and below. The January, 1994 General Assembly agreed with this, and voted 65% - 35% not to enter the governor's race, but two candidates filed for the race anyway).

The open/closed option was the more controversial option among party members, but it was passed as well (with a sunset clause after the November, 1992 elections) because of the concern that in the party's first year on the ballot, unrepresentative candidates might otherwise enter the Green primary and de facto become public faces for the GPCA.

After the 1994 elections, the right to have NOTA and 'open/closed' primaries was taken away by an appellate court. Since then, the GPCA has not had a vehicle to pursue these goals.

In 1999, the By-Laws WG has considered this issue again, and made inquiries in Sacramento whether there would be the possibility of getting some legislation through the state legislature, that would give the GPCA the ability to affect its primaries.

Although these requests were made long before the agenda-setting due date, it turned out that the answer from Sacramento came back at the very last minute before the agenda went out, and left too little time to put in a specific proposal to be included in the agenda pack that is mailed to the delegates.

However, because the response from Sacramento was affirmative as to the possibility of a rule change, a place is being held on the General Assembly agenda for a possible rule change. Discussions are underway within the By-Laws WG as to what possible rule change would be both good for the GPCA and would pass the legislature. As this matter is pursued further by the By-Laws WG, one or more proposals will be formulated by the By-Laws WG and sent to the counties (and posted on grns-cal-forum) as soon as possible before the August state meeting, in order to be considered at it. In order for a rule change to be valid for the 2000 elections, the August state meeting would have to pass something, then the August 15th-September 15th legislative session would have to pass it as well.

Proposals are likely to come in the following form:

- 1) A change in the requirement for qualification for running in the Green primary for statewide races - instead of the current requirement of 150 nomination signatures from GPCA members, with no requirement of where the signatures come from (i.e. they could all come from the same county); instead a requirement that the signatures would have to come from several counties, which would then force a statewide candidate to demonstrate broad-based support within the party before being able to enter the primary and (particularly in an uncontested statewide race) automatically become the GPCA's statewide candidate.
- 2) A change in the requirement for qualification for running in the Green primary for statewide races - instead of (or in addition to) changing the signature requirement, the GPCA could hold a state nomination convention, which would determine whose name could go on the primary ballot. The New Mexico Green Party currently has this practice - they hold a statewide convention in advance of the filing dates for the primary, and only candidates who receive 20% or more of the vote (there is a NOTA option at their convention) are allowed to advance and appear in the primary.

3) The return of NOTA? - there is also the possibility that the state legislature could change its rules and allow NOTA to come back. The appellate court's ruling stated that it was disallowing NOTA because it was in conflict with the election rules approved by the state legislature. Thus, the state legislature could simply change the election rules to make NOTA allowable. This would not require a GPCA rule change - the GPCA already has a NOTA by-law, but that by-law is currently being suppressed by the courts.

The advent of the Open/Blanket Primary in California complicates the possibility of the return of NOTA, but doesn't preclude it. Here is how it could work:

The GPCA could not allow non-party members to vote NOTA in the Green primary (this could create a situation where members of other party's vote NOTA in order to prevent any Green from being on the ballot). Therefore, there would have to be NOTA appearing only on Green Party members' ballots, and there would have to be a separate count of only Green Party members, to determine if NOTA beats any of the candidates seeking the Green nomination. If NOTA wins, then there would be no candidate. If NOTA does not win, then the winner of the Green primary would be the person that receives the most votes in the Open primary, which would include votes from Greens and any other registered voter. That would make it still in keeping with the intent of the voters who supported the change to the Open Primary.

As to the legality of this approach, an attorney who worked on a related issue suggests that at least on first glance, this approach could work. A similar 'double-counting' process has already been approved by the state legislature regarding the presidential primaries for the Democrats and Republicans, whose national party rules state that only party members can vote for presidential candidates in the primary. In those cases, there will be a separate count for both the Democrats and Republicans in their presidential primaries, of party members and then of all voters. This practice, which does not look like it will be challenged by the Open Primary advocates, may set also precedent for a return of NOTA to the GPCA.

Proposal on Statewide Propositions on the March 7, 2000 Ballot

PRESENTER: Initiatives Working Group

CONTACT: Greg Jan, PO Box 3727, Oakland, CA 94609, (510) 444-7336, gjan@iname.com

SUBJECT: Statewide Propositions on the March 7, 2000 Ballot

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: At the last statewide meeting (the gathering in Orange county), people in the Initiatives Working Group expressed interest in having the Green Party of California take positions on the statewide propositions which would be voted on at the next statewide election (March 7, 2000). Taking positions would help county groups who were too busy to do research on their own, it would allow the state party to formally join in statewide proposition electoral coalitions, and it might even mean we could be part of one or more ballot arguments in the voter handbook sent to all voters.

PROPOSAL:

- 1) That we take positions, as recommended below, on the 7 propositions which have already qualified for the March 7 ballot (or are, as of June 23, having their signatures checked). (That we take positions on 4 of the propositions through the consent calendar and on the other 3 through the regular plenary session.)
- 2) That upon recommendation from the Initiatives Working Group to the State Coordinating Committee, that we would use the county-by-county endorsement process to take positions on any other propositions which may qualify for the March 7 election.
- 3) That for any state proposition which we do take a position on, that if we are approached by the appropriate (pro or con) campaign committee, that upon recommendation from the Initiatives Working Group, that the State Coordinating Committee be authorized to have the Green Party of California be an endorser and appropriately participate in the campaign (including the possibility of being part of the ballot argument in the state voter pamphlet).

TIME LINE: We should confirm our positions on the 7 propositions so specified in this agenda item at the Santa Barbara August 14-15 state plenary meeting. For other propositions which may qualify after the present date, the deadline for initiative campaigns to file signatures is August 20 and the deadline for the state to verify those signatures is October 28. In addition, the state legislature may also add propositions to the ballot, within approximately the same timeline. Therefore, as mentioned in Proposal item 2) above, if any other propositions beyond the 7 currently discussed in this agenda item also qualify for the March 7 ballot, then (based on this October 28 deadline) prior to November 15, the Initiatives Working Group will notify the State Coordinating Committee about the(se) proposition(s) so that the county-by-county endorsement process can be used for us to take a position on the(se) proposition(s).

RESOURCES: Money and time needs for decision-making procedures (and liaisons with any state proposition campaigns) should be able to be covered within the existing money and time budgets for state meetings, state working groups, and the state coordinating committee.

>From the California Secretary of State's 2000 Ballot Initiative Update website
http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm):

As of June 23, 1999:

Circulating: 14 are in circulation

Submitted: 1 are pending signature verification Qualified for March 7, 2000 Primary: 6 are on the March 7, 2000 Primary ballot Attorney General: 5 are pending at the Attorney General's Office

(Note from the Initiatives Working Group: The complete text of any proposition or initiative can be ordered without charge from the Secretary of State's Elections Division at (916) 657-2166).

Ballot measures that have qualified for the March 7, 2000 Primary Election

NOTE: Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 are consent calendar items.

1. Legislative Initiative Amendment SB 1878 (Chapter 629, 1998). Kopp. Murder: Special Circumstances. An act to amend Section 190.2 of the Penal Code, relating to murder. This proposition redefines several of the special circumstances which would qualify someone found guilty of murder for the death penalty. Although the language in the proposition itself does not specifically say so, according to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the re-definitions would make it easier to charge a person with the death penalty. The AFSC also says that the negative political impact of this proposition passing (for example, the perception that we should be expanding the use of the death penalty) is just as important as its actual effect on (perhaps) increasing the number of people who might thereby receive the death penalty. **Recommendation:** Oppose (via the consent calendar). Since the Green Party is already on record as being opposed to the death penalty, then by extension we should also be opposed to all laws which would make it easier to apply the death penalty. The American Friends Service Committee, along with other groups, will be organizing a campaign against this proposition.

2. Legislative Initiative Amendment AB 1453 (Chapter 800, 1998). Cardenas. California State Lottery: Cardenas Textbook Act of 2000 An act to amend Section 8880.4 of the Government Code, relating to the state lottery. The Cardenas Textbook Act would allocate half of the increase in public education state lottery funds (over the 1997-98 fiscal year) specifically for instructional materials (based on average daily attendance).

Recommendation: Support. Funding for textbooks and other instructional materials has been pitifully low for years. While this proposition would just begin to address the problem of truly adequate funding, it would at least be a step in the right direction. A staffer at the California Federation of Teachers concurred with this analysis, although neither they, nor the California Teachers Association have as of yet had a chance to take an official position on the proposition.

3. Legislative Initiative Amendment SB 1690 (Chapter 760, 1998). Rainey. Peace Officers An act to amend sections of the penal code relating to peace officers. This proposition would make certain laws which currently apply to California "peace officers" also apply to members of the U.C., State University, and BART police. Half of the laws have to do with specifying crimes for making false reports to peace officers; other laws include increasing the penalty for second degree murder of peace officers and allowing peace officers to carry concealed weapons. **Recommendation:** Oppose (via the consent calendar). Since the Green Party is for decentralization and grassroots democracy, by extension we should oppose a state mandate on these laws relating to police operations in the specified local jurisdictions (that is, on state college and university campuses, and

within the BART system). In fact, the State Legislative Counsel's Digest states, "... the bill would impose a state-mandated local program", and despite the California Constitution requiring the state to reimburse local agencies for costs mandated by the state, this "bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act..."

4. Initiative Statute 802. (SA97RF0076). Juvenile Crime. Initiative Statute. Proponent: Pete Wilson, David La Bahn, c/o Richard D. Martland (916) 446-6752 Increases punishment for gang-related felonies; death penalty for gang-related murder; indeterminate life sentences for home-invasion robbery, carjacking, witness intimidation and drive-by shootings; creates crime of recruiting for gang activities; and authorizes wiretapping for gang activities. Requires adult trial for juveniles 14 or older charged with murder or specified sex offenses; eliminates informal probation for juveniles committing felonies. Requires registration of gang members committing felonies; allows disclosure of information on juveniles committing serious felonies; limits sealing of violent offenses committed by juveniles 14 or older; requires statewide reporting of felony juvenile records. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would result in unknown major net costs to the state of at least hundreds of millions of dollars annually and one-time costs of at least several hundreds of millions. It would also result in unknown net costs to local governments of at least tens of millions of dollars annually, and tens of millions to hundreds of million dollars in one-time costs. **Recommendation:** Oppose (via the consent calendar). Former Governor Wilson supposedly championed this initiative as part of his (now failed) "testing of the waters" for a 2000 Presidential campaign. Once again, those who are largely poor, and who are largely minorities, will suffer greatly as political pawns. Treating fourteen-year-olds as adults certainly won't solve juvenile crime, and as the Legislative Analyst notes, it will also cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year (for prisons, trials, etc.) The American Friends Service Committee, along with other groups, will be organizing a campaign against the Wilson initiative.

5. Initiative Statute 819. (SA98RF0014). Definition of Marriage. Proponent: Senator William J. "Pete" Knight Adds a provision to the Family Code providing that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would likely have no direct fiscal effect on state and local governments. **Recommendation:** Oppose (via the consent calendar). Since our state platform (under "Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights") already calls for legalizing lesbian and gay marriages, by extension, we should oppose the state mandating this specific, narrow definition of marriage. Unfortunately, it looks like the right will have another minority to "go after" for the March election -- this time they'll be "gay-bashing". The ACLU, along with many other groups, will be organizing a campaign against the "Knight" initiative.

6. Referendum 824. (SA98RF0018). Referendum Vote to Overturn Previously Approved Gaming Compacts Proponents: Richard M. Milanovich (213) 624-6200 Referendum to overturn Chapter 409, Statutes of 1998, relating to Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Chapter 409 ratifies 11 tribal-state compacts concluded pursuant to federal law; provides procedures for ratifying future compacts; acknowledges tribes' right to negotiate different compacts; declares Governor responsible for negotiation of compacts; authorizes Governor to waive state's immunity to suit by tribes. **Recommendation:** Oppose. This is an extremely complex issue. This referendum was financed by the Agua Caliente tribe (one of last year's Prop. 5 tribes), supposedly because they believe that the 11 compacts signed by Governor Wilson last year are a bad precedent regarding Indian sovereignty (to see an example of one of the compacts which would be overturned, go to the Pala Indians' compact webpage at: <http://palaindians.com/compact.htm> -- the Palas were the lead tribe in negotiating compacts with Wilson last year). However, a lawyer for the Pala tribe says that the issue is moot since Governor Davis is re-negotiating the compacts, and it was the 11 individual tribes' choice to sign the compacts. Supposedly the Agua Caliente tribe put this on the ballot because they are worried that the precedent of those compacts might somehow affect their own yet-to-be-negotiated compact. But since the Palas (and others of the 11 tribes) did not support the Agua Caliente tribe in overturning the compacts that they signed, we should respect the agreements which the 11 tribes made with Wilson last year, and let the compacts stand, even if Davis is in fact in the process of re-negotiating the situation.

Initiatives that have submitted signatures to qualify for the March 7, 2000 Primary Election ballot:

7. 827. (SA98RF0021) "None of the Above" Ballot Option. Initiative Statute." Summary Date: 01/04/99. Circulation Deadline: 06/03/99. Signatures Required: 419,260 Teri Shugart Erickson (650) 508-8682 and Alan F. Shugart (831) 479-7431

Provides that in general, special, primary and recall elections for President, Vice President, United States House of Representatives and Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Controller, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, Board of Equalization, State Assembly and State Senate, voters may vote for "none of the above" rather than a named candidate. Votes for "none of the above" shall be tallied and listed in official election results, but only votes for named candidates will count for purposes of determining the election result. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could result in minor costs for the state and for county governments to modify their vote-counting and election-reporting procedures as a result of adding the choice of none of the above to candidate election ballots.

Recommendation: Oppose. Although the Green Party of California made history by having "NOTA" win its 1994 Governor's race, that was a binding NOTA, while this proposition would only be a "symbolic" NOTA. While initially the difference between a binding and a non-binding NOTA may not seem like a lot, in practice, there is a substantial difference, especially in the general election. Nevada is the only other state to have a (symbolic) NOTA on its general election ballot. According to the Oaks Project (which last year was trying to qualify a *binding* NOTA in California), the first year Nevada had it on the ballot, voter turnout went up, but after the voters discovered that the NOTA was really only symbolic, turnout plunged, and has never since recovered. The voters don't need the false illusion of a symbolic protest vote, instead they need genuine alternative electoral reform, like Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) and Proportional Representation (PR). Also -- a symbolic NOTA will undoubtedly take away votes from third parties in the general election. The financier of this initiative, Silicon Valley multi-millionaire Al Shugart, previously sponsored an insidious initiative which would have given protection to corporations from stockholder lawsuits. Although this initiative is on a different subject (per the staffer at the Oaks Project that I talked with), we suspect Shugart's more interested in publicity and making a name for himself, than in genuine, effective campaign reform.

Note: The information below is provided so that Greens can be aware of initiatives which might possibly qualify for the ballot if enough signatures are gathered. Anyone who has information that any of these initiatives (or others) might be very likely to qualify, please contact Greg Jan right away (see contact info. above)!

Initiatives in circulation as of June 23, 1999

829. (SA99RF0001). Vehicle License Fees. Taxes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Summary Date: 03/24/99. Circulation Deadline: 08/23/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Assemblyman Tom McClintock and Senator Ray Haynes (916) 444-6238

830. (SA99RF0002). Public Works Projects. Use Of Private Contractors For Engineering and Architectural Services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Summary Date: 03/24/99. Circulation Deadline: 08/23/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: James P. Corn (916) 447-0700

832. (SA99RF0004). Repeal of Additional Tobacco Surtax Enacted by Proposition 10. Initiative Statute. Summary Date: 04/20/99. Circulation Deadline: 09/17/99. Signatures Required: 419,260 Proponents: Ned Roscoe c/o Thomas W. Hiltachk (916) 442-7757

833. (SA99RF0005). School Facilities. Bonds. Local Majority Vote. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Summary Date: 04/29/99. Circulation Deadline: 09/27/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Reed Hastings c/o Joseph Remcho and James C. Harrison (415) 398-6230

834. (SA99RF0007). Reapportionment. Campaign Financing. Compensation. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Summary Date: 05/20/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/18/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Ron Unz (650) 853-0368 and Tony Miller (916) 447-2463

835. (SA99RF0008). Campaign Financing. Reapportionment. Compensation. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Summary Date: 05/20/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/18/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Ron Unz (650) 853-0368 and Tony Miller (916) 447-2463

836. (SA99RF0009). Reapportionment Commission. Campaign Contribution and Spending Limits. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Summary Date: 05/20/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/18/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Ron Unz (650) 853-0368 and Tony Miller (916) 447-2463

837. (SA99RF0010). Election Campaigns. Contributions and Spending Limits. Public Financing. Disclosures. Initiative Statute. Summary Date: 05/20/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/18/99. Signatures Required: 419,260 Proponents: Ron Unz (650) 853-0368 and Tony Miller (916) 447-2463

838. (SA99RF0011). Reapportionment and Redistricting. Independent Panel. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Summary Date: 05/21/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/18/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponents: Oliver W. Speraw (760) 439-5199

839. (SA99RF0012). Legislators' Compensation. Reapportionment. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Summary Date: 05/26/99. Circulation Deadline: 10/25/99. Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponent: Edward J. Costa (916) 482-6175

843. (SA99RF0015). Liability for Infidelity. Initiative Statute. Summary Date: 06/02/99. Circulation Deadline: 11/01/99. Signatures Required: 419,260 Proponent: Laura Onate-Palacios (323) 730-8860

844. (SA99RF0006). Education. Vouchers. Public Funding of Private and Religious Schools. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Summary Date: 06/11/99 Circulation Deadline: 11/08/99 Signatures Required: 670,816 Proponent: Timothy C. Draper (650) 599-9000

845. (SA99RF0018). Funding for After School Educational, Gang Prevention Programs. Initiative Statute. Summary Date: 06/18/99 Circulation Deadline: 11/15/99 Signatures Required: 419,260 Proponent: Ron Ottinger c/o Jack Nicholl (310) 457-6306

846. (SA99RF0019). State Grants: After School Educational Activities; Gang Prevention Programs. Initiative Statute. Summary Date: 06/18/99 Circulation Deadline: 11/15/99 Signatures Required: 419,260 Proponent: Ron Ottinger c/o Jack Nicholl (310) 457-6306

Initiatives pending with the Attorney General as of June 23, 1999:

Due Date to Secretary of State

SA99RF0021 - 07/06/99 "The Prayer in School Initiative" Carl Towe

SA99RF0022 - 08/11/99 "Parental Communication and Responsibility Act" Julia Leyva

SA99RF0023 - 08/11/99 "The Indian Gaming and Economic Self-Sufficiency Measure of 2000" Richard M. Milanovich

SA99RF0024 - 08/11/99 "The California Indian Gaming and Economic Self-Sufficiency Measure of 2000" Richard M. Milanovich

SA99RF0023 - 08/11/99 "The Tribal Government Gaming and Economic Self-Sufficiency Measure of 2000" Richard M. Milanovich

Report and Recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group

FROM: Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group

SUBJECT: Restructuring of Statewide Committees (often called Working Groups)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains a set of six related proposals on how to improve the functioning of the Working Groups (WG). These proposals address some of the concerns enunciated at the Restructuring Brainstorming Session at the Orange County state Gathering. Because these proposals are simple and to the point, they are being brought forward now as a logical next step to the restructuring process. They are not meant to be an all-inclusive list.

Proposals addressing other outstanding issues identified as part of the restructuring process may come forward at future meetings.

Two of the restructuring proposals are contained in the Consent Calendar - 'that each WG Coordinator compile a physical notebook that would contain the WG's Statement of Purpose, information about the WG and other important documents of that WG' and 'that each WG submit a Statement of Purpose (aka 'mission statement') for approval by the General Assembly, at either the November, 1999 or February, 2000 state meetings. Statements should be no longer than 300 words.'

The other four proposals all have to do with increasing the GPCA's coordination and effectiveness, by increasing the GPCA's long-term planning. The following proposals (contained in #6 below) are being submitted FOR CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL AT THIS TIME. IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY GIVES CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL TO THIS APPROACH, THEN THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE FURTHER REFINED AND PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER STATE MEETING.

1 • Background/Process:

For many years, concerns have been expressed about the performance of our statewide working groups - inconsistent and shifting membership/participation/leadership/institutional memory, leading to little continuity from state meeting to state meeting and inefficient, underachieving work overall.

In September, 1998 the Coordinating Committee (CC) began a discussion about addressing this issue, along with the need for better long-term scheduling on the state level. In February, 1999 the CC appointed a 'Future Focus' group within the CC (Nancy Broyles, Linda Martin, Mike Feinstein), to make recommendations about a process. The group came up with the following:

2 • An Explanatory Document

A two-page document was prepared and sent in the agenda pack for the May GPCA gathering in Orange County. That document presented the arguments for restructuring, 'hoped for outcomes' of the process, and an outline of the report/discussion to be given in Orange County. The document was also posted to the grns-cal-forum before the state meeting and posted on the web at www.greens.org/california/rwg.

3 • Hoped for Outcomes for Restructuring listed in the agenda pack:

There were several 'hoped for outcomes' listed in the document in the agenda pack:

- Stabilize working group work, stabilize working group membership - Clarify roles and responsibilities of WG and of WG members - Create and Approve WG mission statements - Ensure quality work time for WG - Clarify goal/role of WG meeting time - at General Assemblies, Gatherings, and in between (face-to-face, phone conference, on-line).
- Coordinate WG needs/goals with state CC agenda-setting process, to better achieve long-term planning.
- Coordinate the state agenda with electoral cycles (including taking positions on statewide initiatives) - Consideration of how often the state party should meet and in what fashion - Ensure that proposals the come before the General Assembly will have undergone sufficient preliminary WG process beforehand - Better documentation of WG work, including web archiving and financial accountability

4 • The process for the Restructuring 'brainstorming session' at the State Gathering in Orange County, May 1999

There was a two-day brainstorming session on restructuring in Orange County - two hours on Saturday and another hour on Sunday. The content was:

- * a presentation of concerns generally identified with our state process
- * a presentation of the recommendations made by the 1992-1993 Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group, as well as concerns that were raised with that proposal in 1993
- * a open airing of additional concerns from Gathering attendees about current state process
- * an open hearing of possible changes from Gathering attendees

5 • Notes of Restructuring session in Orange County, May 1999

Too many working groups (WG) - eliminate some WG, some WG are artificial and unnecessary - purpose of WG - to do work in between meetings to facilitate proposals/budget to state general assembly - some WG should become sub-committees - WG are different, perhaps they should be treated differently - WG could have different structure, number of members, depending upon purpose - define difference between WG, committee, caucus, ad-hoc - structure follow needs Internal/Functional: By-laws, Finance, Internal Communications, Legal, Personnel (Platform?) External/Strategic: Goals & Strategies, Campaigns & Candidates, Alliance, Initiatives, Media, International Policy Areas: Ecology, Social Justice Electoral Reform, (Platform?) - what WG appropriate on state level, is there a local/county component - Alliance WG shouldn't be a separate WG, but part of all - Goals & Strategies WG should include Electoral Reform, Campaigns & Candidates

Lack of long-term, strategic planning - lack of strategic plan - how measure effectiveness vis-a-vis goals identified - how be more project oriented, goal oriented - what are goals for 2-4 years, - what best done on state level, and on local - coordinate strategic plan with WG - set future state meeting dates, agendas based on strategic plan - this should be responsibility of Goals & Strategies, Coordinating Committee

How stabilize WG, make more effective - how stabilize WG members, WG Co-coordinators - no definition of active members - WG members not have to be delegates - WG membership should be restricted to those who do work - WG voting members should be restricted to those who do work - list WG phone numbers, contact info on web, Green Consensus - how cycle in new people? - how empower the youth caucus? - powers of WG - bring policy and budget proposals to General Assembly - how do WG coordinators relate to CC - CC liaisons to WGs should report to agenda committee - scheduling time for twelve WG at state meetings doesn't give enough time to each. WG should justify the time they need at state meetings, before the agenda is put together. - WG should agendize their time beforehand, instead of waiting to get to the state meeting to do it during WG time - there should be a WG sign-in in advance, to see who will go, if not drop the meeting that day - what are the ground rules for keeping a WG going

Geography/size of state a challenge - north/south split; meet less often as a state, but more NorCal, SoCal - use email phone conf for WG, in place of face-to-face

How make WG more visible, accessible - many do not know how the party works - increase visibility/availability of WG, WG work not transparent - how do new volunteers know how to get involved - update Daniel Solnit's orientation manual - need an organizational chart - look at resources - not limit involvement to those who can come to state meetings, but rather to take advantage of the full membership - create a WG Coordinator notebook, with mission statement, details about WG - active/inactive groups - newcomers can sign up to revitalize - how do we accommodate people who don't have email; have option for WG members (and locals) to pay photocopying/ mailing costs to receive minutes - need graphics for visually-oriented people

Next steps - by-law change, strategic plan. time line

6 • An Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group (RWG) was also formed as part of this process. It consists of the 'future focus' group, the by-laws coordinator, one person from each active region, and one or two more appointed by the CC if needed to fill needs.

So far, only two of the regions have appointed someone. **REGIONS NEED TO APPOINT SOMEONE SO THEY CAN MEET IN SANTA BARBARA.** What we have currently is:

* the three appointed 'future focus' CC members Nancy Broyles, Santa Barbara nbroyles@igc.org Mike Feinstein, Santa Monica mfeinstein@feinstein.org Linda Martin, San Diego lmartin7@san.rr.com

* the by-laws coordinator Michael Monnot, Berkeley moncia@igc.org

* representatives from regions Lisa Rizer, Arcata (Emerald) rengen@northcoast.com Lucy Colvin, San Francisco (Bay Area) lucycolvin@juno.com

7 • Proposals coming forward

The restructuring process is to proceed over the span of a few meetings, without trying to do everything at once. The RWG can recommend proposals as well as further brainstorming sessions, both for the August, 1999 state meeting and/or for ensuing state meetings.

8 • Proposals for the August, 1999 GPCA General Assembly

NOTE: These proposals are for advisory discussion only.

Proposal A WG PREPARE A YEARLY WORK PLAN:

It is proposed that each WG prepare a yearly work plan, to go along with any budget submissions. The work plan would identify what are the goals of the WG for that year, and what, if any proposals it would want to bring forward for a vote of the General Assembly, and when. The content of the work plan should be congruent with the WG Statement of Purpose.

Discussion: Yearly work plans would bring all the advantages of better planning - clearer goals and responsibilities within each WG; more accessibility and transparency of each WG to the rest of the GPCA; better coordination between each WG and the state agenda-setting process and more overall effectiveness of each WG.

While achieving these goals, yearly work plans would also achieve another benefit - increasing the stability of the WG itself - which would go a long ways towards addressing another often voiced concern of GPCA members about WG. In addition, it would achieve this by promoting strategic planning, rather than focusing on ‘who is a voting member of each WG?’, which was one of the more divisive aspects of the 1992-1993 Restructuring Process.

Work plans would be handed in each year along with budget requests. If this proposal is given conceptual approval, WG are encouraged to begin the process of laying out a one (and possibly) two-year work plan. This practical experience could then inform the General Assembly discussion in November, about how to go about establishing these plans. With the budget due to be approved at the February state meeting, final work plans could be handed in at that time.

Proposal B WG PREPARE AGENDAS IN ADVANCE OF STATE MEETING:

It is proposed that all WG prepare their agendas in advance for state meetings, including the assigning of time for items, and have this printed in the agenda pack. The content of agenda items would arise from the work plans. A specific time would also be reserved at each meeting for party members seeking to raise new issues not on the agenda..

Discussion: This advance planning would help the WG meetings run better, as people will know what to expect and can prepare for it, and WG time won’t be wasted the way it is now simply in setting the agenda on-site.

With the amount of time needed per WG becoming more clear, setting each WG agenda in advance will also give the CC more flexibility in setting overall agenda times, as some WG may have different needs, rather than the ‘one time fits all’ practice that we currently have.

Proposal C.1 LONG-TERM PLANNING OF STATE MEETINGS

It is proposed to change the state mandate from having three General Assemblies/plus one Gathering a year to two General Assemblies/plus one Gathering a year. The option to have a third General Assembly if necessary would be retained.

Discussion: Preparing for three decision-making meetings every year can be burdensome on counties, taking time and resources away from local work. Also, in even-numbered years where Greens are running for office all around the state, it may not always be practical to also meet four times a year. The GPCA needs the flexibility to ensure that we meet on a state level only as much as we need. With better coordination on state level, we can also emphasize work done in between state meetings.

Proposal C.2 LONG-TERM PLANNING OF STATE MEETINGS

It is proposed that with input from each WG, the CC develops a two-year schedule for the General Assemblies and Gatherings, to be revised each year. Flexibility would remain on content, date and location.

Discussion: The GPCA would be more effective on the state level, if its state meetings were better coordinated with the needs of each WG, with the mandates of electoral cycles (both for candidates and initiatives) and with the needs of the counties to successfully plan for and host state meetings. With work plans coming in from the WG and with information from the Secretary of State’s office on various legal dates surrounding electoral cycles, the GPCA could more easily plan the content, date and location of future meetings. This would both help organizing on the state level, and give the counties a better ability to plan their own time.

Proposal D WG Notebook

FROM: Ad-Hoc Restructuring Working Group

SUBJECT: Accessibility/transparency/continuity of Working Groups

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that each WG Coordinator compile a physical notebook that would contain the WG's Statement of Purpose, information about the WG and other important documents of that WG. The notebook would be passed from Coordinator to Coordinator, and would be brought to every state meeting.

DISCUSSION: This notebook would provide a place of record, a continuity of information between coordinators, and an opportunity for state meeting attendees to access to this information. Former WG Coordinators should contact present Coordinators in order to share old material.

Proposal to enable counties to use proportional representation for county council elections

PRESENTERS: Caleb Kleppner, Electoral Reform Working Group; Mark Stout, Goals and Strategy Working Group; Bylaws Working Group

CONTACT: Caleb Kleppner, 415-389-9739, calebk@igc.org

SUBJECT: Using proportional representation to elect county councils

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND: This is a strategy:

- 1) to demonstrate our commitment to proportional representation (PR);
- 2) to educate ourselves and election officials about PR; and
- 3) to overcome future objections to PR and IRV based on equipment viability and cost.

By implementing PR for county council elections and working with election officials to conduct them, we will head off future opposition to public campaigns for PR and IRV based on equipment compatibility and cost. This will also pressure election officials to ensure that future purchases of voting equipment be compatible with PR and IRV.

County councils are currently elected using winner-take-all, plurality (first-past-the-post).

PROPOSAL: To change the state bylaws to enable but not require counties to use the proportional representation system known as choice voting to elect Green Party County Councils. See below for findings, the current bylaw language and proposed bylaw amendment.

TIME LINE: Change bylaws at August plenary. Counties wishing to do so can work with their county election officials to implement choice voting for the March 2000 county council elections. Other counties may aim for June 2002 elections.

RESOURCES: This proposal does not obligate the party to expend any financial resources. Counties who wish to implement choice voting will need to work with local election officials. The Electoral Reform Working Group will support these efforts by preparing materials for locals to use when talking to election officials, coaching people on talking to election officials and meeting with election officials when possible.

This proposal does not obligate the party to pursue litigation if the Secretary of State and county election officials refuse to uphold our bylaws.

******* Findings *******

Greens within a county need to be able to establish the voting system used to elect their county council. Grassroots democracy and self-determination require that locals have as many options as possible under law for electing their county councils.

The General Assembly of the Green Party of California believes that the right to choose the voting system for county councils is a prerogative of the party at the state and county level.

The 10 Key Values include grassroots democracy, social justice, decentralization and respect for diversity.

The platform of the Green Party of California includes proportional representation.

Participating in choice voting elections will educate Green Party members and election officials about proportional representation.

Implementing choice voting for county council elections will help us overcome future opposition to electoral reform based on cost, technical viability and voter confusion.

It is important that Greens develop constructive relationships with local registrars and other election officials.

Greens and county election officials may wish to implement provisional methods of implementing choice voting until equipment and software that are fully compatible with transferable ballots are acquired by counties.

It is an appropriate use of state party resource to mount litigation to uphold the party's right to control internal party elections.

******* Current Bylaw *******

The current bylaws specify that counties use winner-take-all, plurality (first-past-the-post) voting in single-member districts or at-large districts depending on the number of county council members to be elected from the county. Counties have the option to change the method of electing or the number of members of the county council.

*******Proposed Bylaw language: [] and strikeout indicated [~~deleted text~~]. *******

4-1.4 Method of electing members

Members of County Councils shall be elected from one or more multi-member districts using Choice Voting, the Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation, using the Droop threshold (one divided by one plus the number of seats) and fractional transfers as described in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance(IDEA). First published 1997. Second edition. Stockholm, Sweden. pp.83-84.) The multi-member districts shall conform to the county boundaries or the boundaries of Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate or Supervisorial districts in accordance with the county's bylaws.

4-1.5 Optional county council selection process (THIS IS UNCHANGED)

Counties may choose to modify the method of selecting their county council or the size of their county council by notifying the State Coordinating Committee who shall in turn notify the Secretary of State no later than 135 days prior to the direct primary election.

4-1.6 Number to be elected from election district

The county will have the total elected members to which it is entitled. The number to be elected for each district will be the number for the proportion of registered Green Party voters in that district.

4.1-7 Computation of members allotted (county)(UNCHANGED)

4-1.8 Computation of members allotted (election district)

The county clerk, no later than the 115th day before the direct primary election, shall compute the number of members of county councils to be elected in each >> election district if the election is be by election district.

4-1.10 Residence of candidate

A candidate may seek election only in the multi-member district in which she or he resides.

~~[4-1.11 Residence of candidate (election district)]~~ (SECTION DELETED - REDUNDANT)

4.1.12 Number of sponsors ~~[(county)]~~ (UNCHANGED)

4-1.13 Number of sponsors (election district) (UNCHANGED)

4.1.16 Conditions for election of candidates

No write-in candidate for member of county council shall be declared elected, however, unless that candidate received a number of first choice votes equal to or greater than 2 percent of the number of party members voting in the county council election district at the direct primary or 20 votes, whichever is less.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s) _____ Phone () _____

Email _____ Address _____

HOUSING: ___ I will find my own. I will need housing for ___ nights. How many Adults _____?

___ Any smokers?. How many children and their ages _____?

How many need childcare _____?

COST: If registration is postmarked by August 1st is \$15 a day. After August 1 registration is \$20 a day.

Breakfast and Lunch are included in the fee for both Sat 8/14 and Sun 8/15.

Make checks or money orders payable to Green Party of Santa Barbara.

Send money and form to: Nancy Broyles, 740 Flora Vista Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

HOUSING INFORMATION FOR STATE MEETING 8/13-15/1999

For those who would rather stay in a motel for the Santa Barbara State meeting, these are the low-priced motels. Because August is the height of summer vacation some of the rates may go up by August 13. Possibly you can lock in a price by calling the motel in mid - July. We have listed only those motels with rates under a \$100 a night for a single. Of course all rates are negotiable and many hotels and motels offer senior and AAA discounts. We also suggest that you consult AAA for further listings.

International Backpackers, Banana Bungalow Hostel (805) 963-0154, 210 E Orgeta Street, \$18-\$22 a person, no reservations, just go in and sign up early that day

Hacienda Motel 3643 State Street, (805) 687-6461, \$55 single \$65 double

San Roque Motel, 3344 State Street (805) 687-6611, single \$65, double \$84 . Hope Ranch, 4111 State Street (805) 687-2901, single \$65, double \$85 www.hoperanch.webvalley.com

Motel 6, three locations: Beach (805) 564-1392, Upper State St (805) 687-5400 and Goleta (805) 964-3596

Super 8 Motel 6021 Hollister Ave, Goleta, (10 miles north of Santa Barbara). single \$63, double \$76. Will give a 10% discount to a group. If 10 people phone (805) 963-2678 or Email, nbroyles@1gc.org by Aug 1 I'll make a reservation.

Reef Motel, 4160 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria (14 Miles south of Santa Barbara on Hiway 101) (805) 684-4176 single \$40, double \$49.

For all others who would rather have a home-stay , call Nancy Broyles at (805) 963-2687 nbroyles@1gc.org or John Strawn (805) 682-4050 jcs@west.net

Please don't wait till the last minute or you may end up in a tent in someone's backyard.

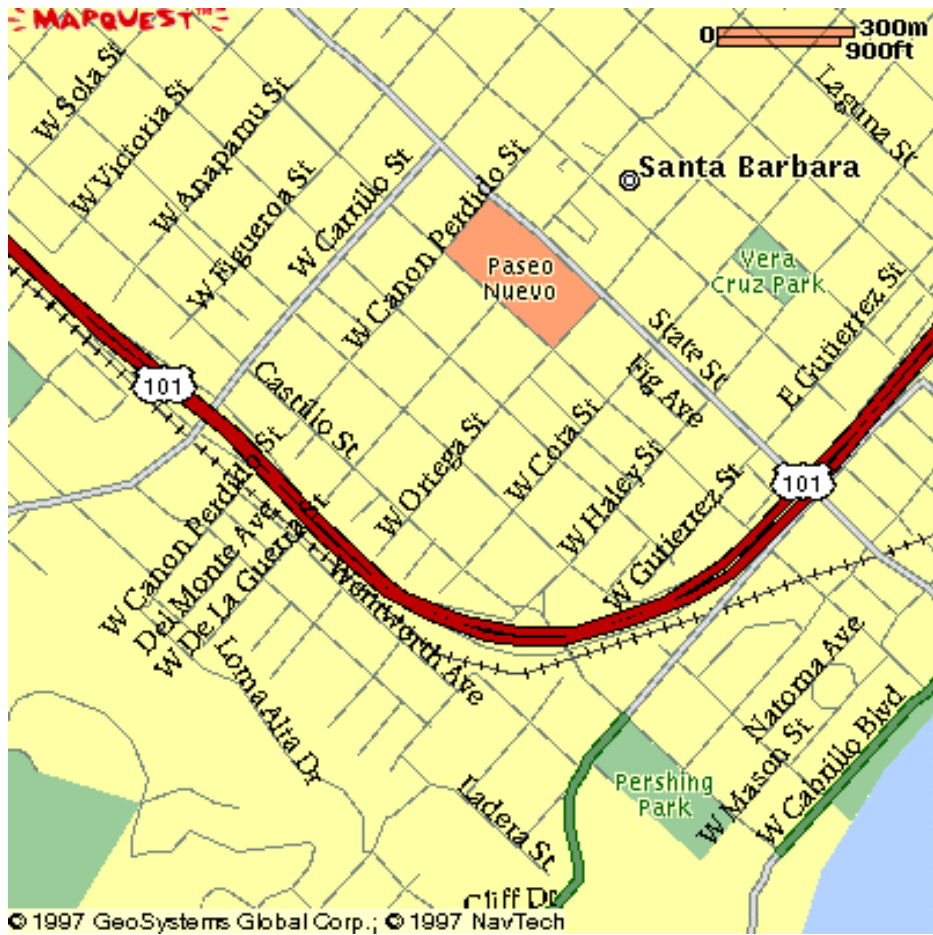
CAMPING

Cachuma Lake Campgrounds at Cachuma Recreational Area, 20 miles North of Santa Barbara on Hiway 154. (805) 686-5054

El Capitan Canyon Campgrounds 20 miles North of Santa Barbara on Hiway 101. (805) 968-2214

UNION HOTELS:

Holiday Inn, Goleta , 5650 Calle Real (805) 964-6241, Culinary Workers agreement only.



GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA - DELEGATES TO AUG 1999 STATE MEETING

Active Counties	# Greens	% Grn in active	Delegates
Alameda	10523	11.38	10
Contra Costa	3261	3.53	4
El Dorado	621	0.67	1
Humboldt	4067	4.40	4
Lake	277	0.30	1
Los Angeles	15358	16.60	16
Madera	139	0.15	1
Marin	2723	2.94	3
Mendocino	1516	1.64	2
Monterrey	1014	1.10	1
Napa	525	0.57	1
Nevada	1297	1.40	1
Orange	3993	4.32	4
Placer	807	0.87	1
Riverside	1388	1.50	2
Sacramento	3238	3.50	4
San Bernardino	1773	1.92	2
San Diego	6751	7.30	6
San Francisco	9897	10.70	10
San Luis Obispo	1381	1.49	1
San Mateo	2430	2.63	3
Santa Barbara	2512	2.72	3
Santa Clara	4725	5.11	4
Santa Cruz	4566	4.94	5
Shasta	244	0.26	1
Sonoma	3444	3.72	4
Stanislaus	492	0.53	1
Ventura	2506	2.71	3
Yolo	1029	1.11	1

Registration report from the CA Secretary of State, as of 10/05/98. Total Green Registrants: 98,443. Total in active counties: 92,497. Twenty-nine Counties contain active locals. Any county becoming active before the meeting will be entitled to one delegate.