

VALLEY WEST

Democratic Club

Providing Leadership Since 1969

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State's Premier Environmental Lawmaker Fran Pavley Will Speak At March 21 Monthly Meeting

Fran Pavley, one of California's most extraordinary legislators, whose bills have reverberated across the nation and impacted millions of citizens, will be guest speaker at the Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m. meeting of the Valley West Democratic Club, at Shomrei Torah



Synagogue, 7353 Valley Circle Blvd.

Ms. Pavley, recently termed-out State Assemblywoman from the 41st District, has introduced environmental legislation deeply affecting automobiles, clean air and global warming.

A Club favorite for many years, she will disclose the frustrations, opposition and ultimately her triumphs in the Legislature.

She has been a frequent contributor to our newsletter and last month wrote about

the Santa Susanna Field Lab contamination.

During her tenure as assemblywoman she made her reputation as a champion of environmental protection and education, earning press coverage in national publications such as the New York Times.

Ms. Pavley does not intend to rest on her laurels, however, and currently plans to seek the State Senatorial seat now held by Sheila Kuehl, who will be termed out next year.

Please plan to attend and bring as many friends as you can. There is plenty of free parking available.

Oversight Returns To The House With Waxman As 'New Cop On The Beat'

Congressman Henry Waxman, who represents our 30th District and has promised to delve into the unexamined calamities of the Bush Administration, is sending tremors through the hallowed halls of Congress.

As the new chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee he is already scheduling hearings on fraud involving multi-billion-dollar construction in Iraq.

The Nation magazine calls him the Democrat's Eliot Ness. The Oversight Committee's former chairman, GOP's Dan Burton of Indiana says he expects "one of the toughest investigatory committees you've ever faced."

Mr. Waxman has a unique advantage over other committee chairmen because he can issue subpoenas without a committee vote under House rules.

"I want to concentrate on the theme of waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars," he said. He intends to examine businesses involved in New Orleans' cleanup after Katrina.

Mr. Waxman has accused Republicans of having ignored accountability and oversight.

"When there is no cop on the beat," he said, "criminals are more willing to engage

in crimes."

He describes himself as a "proud, self-confessed, unapologetic liberal," who



became a Congressman in 1974. He authored the Clean Air Act in 1990 and in 1994 held hearings on regulating tobacco.

He also introduced major bills on environment, healthcare and AIDS.

He told one reporter that if administration officials refuse to provide information "and try to get away with it, I think it will be very unfortunate for them."

He says of his agenda, "The most difficult thing will be to pick and choose." There will be no rest until "Congressional oversight is reinvigorated and the checks and balances on which our system of government depends are restored."

**Coverage and results of the
DP/SFV Convention this
past February 24 will appear
in the next issue of our
newsletter.**

President's Column:

The GOP Seems Determined To Go Down With Its Captain

By Rich Kolber

As I watched the debate over the various Iraq surge resolutions, what most struck me is how many Republicans in Congress are willing to ignore the wishes of the voters. These are on average highly educated people who I tell myself surely must know what the rest of us have long since recognized: that the invasion of Iraq was a colossal blunder that has led to worldwide scorn for the United States, the deaths of over 3000 Americans and over a hundred thousand civilians and counting, and the sapping of our financial resources that has led to cuts in education, the environment and health care spending.

Now I recognize that about 30% of the country are true believers who still believe, WMD's or no WMD's, that this invasion was the right thing to do, that we can create

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