

2005 ADDENDUM

TO THE 2002 PLATFORM

OF THE

GREEN PARTY OF

CALIFORNIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. ECOLOGY & EARTH STEWARDSHIP	3
Water (2003)	4
Energy (2003)	5
Transportation (2002)	7
Urban Land Use (2003)	9
B. SOCIAL JUSTICE & LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES	10
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (2004)	11
Public Education (2003)	12
AIDS/HIV (2003)	14
C. PEACE & NONVIOLENCE	15
Economic Conversion (2003)	16
D. DEMOCRACY & ELECTORAL REFORM	17
Government Secrecy (2003)	18
Intelligence Agencies (2003)	19
Corporations and Democracy (2003)	20

NOTE: The order of the planks is that at the Green Party of California's website at <http://www.cagreens.org/platform> to which readers are referred for the most up-to-date information since new planks are continually being approved

**ECOLOGY &
EARTH STEWARDSHIP**

WATER (2003)

Water is essential to all forms of life. The many roles water performs in the natural world deserve our respect and protection. A clean, safe supply of drinking water is of paramount concern to every California resident. Our existing surface and groundwater must be protected from pollution by agricultural and industrial wastes as well as runoff from our homes and roadways.

Cycles of intense drought and flooding have demonstrated the need to reorient our priorities in order to achieve a truly sustainable water policy. Over-development and poor planning have resulted in increasing rain-impermeable areas, which then compound the severity and frequency of flooding and pollution in regions downstream. We must begin to understand and apply a holistic "watershed approach" to managing our state's water resources. The principle of bioregionalism - living within the means of a region's natural resources - should give direction to future water policies.

Conservation (reduce, reuse, recycle) must be an essential part of any water policy. Water conservation also reduces energy consumption and pollution.

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

The Green Party proposes:

- * Mandate water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction, and promote retrofitting of older buildings.

- * Promote native landscaping and other drought resistant/climate-appropriate plants, in order to reduce the need for irrigation. Where irrigation is necessary, promote drip irrigation systems.

- * Eliminate storm water pollution of our water resources through education of our citizens, enforcement of our laws and holistic watershed management. Promote storm water technologies that detain, treat, filtrate and use storm waters near where it is collected.

- * Promote the appropriate reuse of the "gray" and "black" waters we produce. Use separation techniques such as dual piping systems where pure water is used for drinking and washing, and reclaimed water is used for lawn watering and similar purposes.

- * Mandate pre-treatment of industrial wastes to eliminate the presence of metals, solvents and other toxins in sewer water. This would reduce the cost of municipal treatment and encourage wastewater reuse.

- * Promote passive and natural systems (such as wetlands) for water and wastewater treatment, where appropriate.

- * Eliminate water subsidies for corporate agribusiness. Higher water prices give agribusiness incentives to conserve.

- * Assist community organizations to monitor the use of local resources, and to oversee the enforcement of water quality regulations.

- * Preserve and restore the state's natural water features - California's streams, rivers, lakes, bays, wetlands and groundwater aquifers - which are vital to achieving sustainable use of state water resources.

- * Immediately ban the use of MTBE. Use ethanol which is produced from corn. Prevent future such sources of pollution. (See the Transportation plank for ways to reduce gasoline use.)

ENERGY (2003)

Conservation, efficiency and renewable energy sources are essential elements of our proposed energy policy.

The 2000-2001 California energy "crisis" reminded us to reaffirm this. We need to develop strategies that recognize that fossil fuels are formed in geological time and cannot be replaced in the short term and they are being depleted rapidly (except coal). Moreover, our current dependence on fossil fuels (especially coal) is creating unacceptable environmental damage, including climate change that will bring great hardship to many humans and non-human life. Conserving energy will reduce the need for fossil fuels and dangerous nuclear energy. We can also lessen our dependence upon energy sources by driving more fuel-efficient cars and by simplifying our lifestyles to include things such as living closer to our work. [see Transportation plank]

U.S. dependence on imported oil contributes to our military involvement in other parts of the world. Elimination or reduction of this dependence would eliminate or diminish the reason, or the excuse, for such military involvement. In addition, with concern about further attacks, security of California energy resources becomes more important. Decentralizing energy production is important to improve security from attack and also for less dependence on large facilities feeding into massive grids that are easily disrupted.

Proposed state and national energy policies would loosen environmental protections. Clean air, clean water, endangered species, and the Alaska Wildlife Refuge are all threatened. Many local communities, often poor and minority, are being threatened by mining activities, waste storage, waste incineration, dirty production facilities and other assaults. Nuclear Power is being promoted as a solution to global warming but it leaves long-lived and dangerous wastes in its wake [see Environmental Justice and Nuclear Contamination planks]

Streamlining of permits in response to the 2000-2001 energy "crisis" has changed the process for siting power plants. It sidestepped previous environmental legislation and the process by which residents participate in the decision making. Also it has led to an increase in the number of fossil fuel peaker plants which are used when demand for power is the highest. They are less efficient than new full-size natural gas plants and they emit much more pollution per unit of energy produced.

Regulation vs. Deregulation vs. Public Power

California's failed attempt to deregulate energy utilities points out the dangers of investing our energy future in the hands of an energy market committed only to the maximizing of profits. Deregulation has failed to produce the promised rate reduction for residents, but rather has caused our bills to soar.

Deregulation gave the three privately held California utilities a cash windfall that allowed their holding companies to control the allegedly competitive market. They have invested in energy plants in the U.S. and worldwide, and own billions of dollars in assets not touchable by the state to rectify the outstanding utility debts. Under deregulation, many of the state's utility generation facilities were sold to out-of-state companies who then sold that power on the open free market at exorbitant profits.

A growing pool of experience shows that Municipal Utilities Districts and other public power agencies run more efficiently and provide better customer service than Investor Owned Utilities.

California's deregulation law provided a small fund to promote renewable sources, low-income assistance, and energy efficiency. The rejected alternative for renewable sources, which was pushed by environmentalists, would have required all electricity generators to produce 10% of their energy from renewable sources. This left a voluntary effort by independent power suppliers to market "green power" to customers. The effort resulted in very little new renewable power sources.

Global Climate Change

In the last decade, the Earth has experienced some of the highest average temperatures ever. The United States is responsible for emitting approximately 25% of all greenhouse gases worldwide. Energy generation, including

transportation uses, account for most of this. The Kyoto Protocol committed our country to reducing emissions to 1990 levels. It should be adopted nationally and should commit our state as well to reducing emissions to 1990 levels. [see Protection of the Atmosphere plank]

The Green Party of California proposes:

- * Phase out fossil fuels as an energy source to the extent possible and convert to renewable sources. Require all electricity sellers to procure at least 10% of their energy from renewable sources. This Renewable Standard Portfolio for California should rise to 20% by 2010.

- * Use subsidies, incentives and regulations to encourage the development of such renewable sources as passive solar for heating and cooling buildings solar water heating, solar electricity (photovoltaics hydrogen fuel, biomass geothermal, ocean, wind and small scale hydroelectric). For example, reinstate the "direct access" option for residential consumers so that they can get power from companies using renewable sources.

- * Establish higher energy efficiency standards for lighting, home and office appliances and industrial motors; and increase rebate and replacement programs.

- * Require energy efficiency, passive solar and solar water heating in building codes. Do not permit homeowner associations and condo associations to restrict member owners from installing solar equipment on their commonly held rooftops and hanging out laundry.

- * Support a massive project of energy conservation. We must make up for years of under-funding of energy conservation. We need more efficient appliance purchase rebates, small business conservation loans and grants, training and small business development for energy service providers, energy conservation innovation and curriculum in public school science courses on how renewable energy sources work.

- * Include information in utility bills about where to obtain energy saving products.

- * Restructure electricity rates so that residents are not paying more than big business. Require large users who have not done all they can to reduce energy use to pay more for electricity. Develop a tiered residential pricing system that takes into account family size.

- * Work toward full public ownership and democratic control of energy production and distribution.

- * Require utilities to accept net metering (the selling of the excess power to the grid by private generators) to encourage building of alternative energy generation and stipulate that it be done at retail rates.

- * Use "time-of-use" pricing as much as possible and install time-of-day meters for large users.

- * Create an incentive program to encourage conservation by landlords. Landlords refuse to pay to insulate homes, etc. because the tenant pays the energy bill, so the landlord has no financial incentive.

- * Cities or utilities should have someone designated to educate energy wasters. Someone that people would be able to call when they see careless energy wasting, like parking lot lights left on all day at a big box store.

- * Stop subsidies for the research and development of nuclear power and oppose license extensions for nuclear power plants. Shut down existing nuclear power plants and replace them with renewable sources. Repeal the federal Price-Anderson Act, which limits the financial liability of the nuclear industry in case of accidents. Insurance companies will not cover nuclear power plants, so this liability is a subsidy to the nuclear power industry now borne by taxpayers.

- * Repeal Governor Davis's "permit streamlining process" for siting power plants. Use solar to meet peak demand.

- * Adopt the Kyoto Protocol on global warming and implement measures as soon as possible to reduce national and state carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels.

- * Employ union labor in green energy projects.

- * To better distribute renewable sources, there should be more emphasis on individual solar power from photovoltaic panels installed on every roof possible and subsidized by the government with increased buy-down rates and low-interest loans to those who need them.

- * Make our supply of energy more secure through decentralized energy production, including new technologies such as hydrogen fuel and fuel cells, and less dependence on outside sources of energy. We should seek more energy independence within California borders.

- * Prohibit sale of power generating and distribution assets to out-of-state power companies who would not be subject to California Public Utilities Commission oversight and control.

- * When Green Power marketers reenter the market here they should provide new renewables and avoid top-down, anti-democratic, funder-led objectives.

- * Replace aging, inefficient and polluting plants.

TRANSPORTATION (2002)

The Green Party urges the adoption of a transportation policy emphasizing the use of mass transit and alternatives to the automobile and truck.

California needs transportation that minimizes pollution and maximizes energy efficiency. California alone is responsible for 1/20th of the global greenhouse gas problem. Automobiles contribute a significant portion of this _ the number of cars in California is increasing at twice our human population growth rate. Surfaces impermeable to rainwater, polluted storm run-off, paved-over or polluted wetlands, the heat island effect (increased temperature from heat-absorbing pavement), air pollution, and acid rain are all directly related to an ecologically unbalanced transportation system.

Our current transportation systems depend on oil for energy. Petroleum is a finite resource and it will run out some day. World oil supplies will decline in the near future. Postponing the development of conservation technologies and alternative energy sources will cause the inevitable transition from oil to be that much more expensive and difficult.

Massive subsidies to the auto and fossil fuel industries, as well as unworkable approaches by urban planners, maintain the auto's dominance of our cityscapes. The practice of upgrading streets to relieve traffic congestion just generates new traffic because access is now easier. People then take jobs further from their homes or purchase homes further from their jobs. Some people shift from public transit to private cars because the trip time in cars is shorter. When fewer people use public transit, it loses funding. As service deteriorates, even more people use their cars and the cycle continues

To counteract these trends and reduce auto use, the Green Party advocates the following strategies:

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- * Make streets, neighborhoods and commercial districts more pedestrian-oriented.
- * Increase the greenery on streets to encourage people to get out of their cars. This also helps reduce the heat-island effect.
- * Implement traffic-calming methods so that the design of local streets promotes safe speeds and safe interaction with pedestrians. Create small, walkable, auto-free zones.
- * Develop extensive networks of bicycle lanes and paths.
- * Include bike racks on all public transit. Provide adequate bike parking at all transit stations and other public destinations.
- * Provide free bicycles for tourists, visitors or others without bicycles so they can ride around town pollution-free. Provide necessary support services to encourage the use of bicycles.

Mass Transit

- * Redirect resources and subsidies that currently go to enhancing auto capacity into expanding transit options like mass transit that provide service to the most people at the lowest financial and environmental cost.
- * Develop affordable and accessible mass transit systems - they should be more economical and convenient to use than private vehicles.
- * Deploy non-petroleum powered or highly efficient buses. Such technologies as fuel cells, hybrids, bio-diesel and electric are currently available or are close to full development.
- * Encourage employer subsidies of transit commuter tickets for employees, funded by government congestion management grants.
- * Use existing auto infrastructure for transit expansion where possible. Light rail could be established in expressway medians through metropolitan high-density corridors.
- * Include transportation issues in land use decisions, such as the need for mass transit to have a market and be viable, and cross commuting (people commuting to a place where they could and should live). [see Urban Land Use plank.]
- * Provide easy-to-understand and thorough information concerning mass transit schedules, routes and rates. Make this information convenient and accessible to potential commuters.

* Design mass transit with roll-on access for the physically disabled. Hoists and lifts are clumsy and time-consuming.

Autos

* Place a moratorium on highway widening and use the money for mass transit and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

* Lower toll fees and provide further incentives for carpools and rideshares.

* Discourage unnecessary auto use by limiting free parking in nonresidential areas well served by mass transit.

* Substantially increase the taxes on gasoline, but allow some compensation for low-income drivers. [see Creating the Right Incentives plank.]

* Legislate a "gas guzzler" tax on new vehicles that get a lower mpg than the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards and offer "gas sipper" rebates for vehicles that get a higher mpg.

* Schedule an increase in CAFE standards to 60 mpg for cars and 45 mpg for light trucks within five years.

* Develop and market to the general public fuel-efficient cars, such as hybrids, as well as fuel cell, solar, electric and other non-fossil fuel powered vehicles for local travel.

Long Distance Travel

* Make airports accessible by local transit systems.

* Legislate further incremental reductions in airplane noise and air pollution.

* Emphasize the use of light and heavy rail for freight transportation as an alternative to air and truck freight.

* Build high-speed rail systems between cities as an alternative to airplanes and cars - especially over highly traveled medium-length routes like San Francisco to Los Angeles.

URBAN LAND USE (2003)

Undeveloped lands, wilderness and agricultural lands are necessary for the ecological sustainability of the Earth and must be preserved. Thus, growth must be planned to minimize impact on these precious resources.

Because the Earth is a closed system, it cannot tolerate unrestrained growth without serious environmental consequences. Yet growth and development are often seen as desirable in themselves. But the consequence of this over-development is environmental destruction as areas exceed their natural carrying capacities.

The Green Party supports preservation of agricultural and wilderness lands:

- * Support the Ecologically-Sound Sustainable Communities Movement, which encompasses principles of ecological design that promote the sustenance and co-existence of human populations with the environment and which use 'green' technologies that are beneficial to both human and planet.
 - * Promote the use of "ecological footprints" to help communities assess the burden they place on their environment and in understanding where they can apply the above concepts in their own communities.
 - * Encourage high density communities as one way to prevent urban sprawl into agricultural and wilderness areas.
 - * Phase increases in the population density with appropriate infrastructure developments to facilitate public transit travel, shopping, recycling and other functions as much as possible.
 - * Plan these high-density communities so that they are compatible with desirable social goals. Retain open spaces, parklands and greenbelts as components of all development plans to maintain a high quality of life.
 - * Locate schools and places of employment within easy walking or bicycling distances from residences, or along mass transit lines.
 - * Use water treatment and closed-loop sewage treatment systems wherever possible.
 - * Change tax and planning laws to foster urban development that uses solar and other alternative energy sources.
 - * Stabilize the size of the American population and limit consumption levels.
-

**SOCIAL JUSTICE &
LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES**

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER EXPRESSION (2004)

In keeping with the Green Key Values of Diversity, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, and Feminism, we support full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

We specifically advocate for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer (LGBTIQ*) people, as follows:

* We support the freedom to marry, and all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities thereof, without discrimination based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

* We support state and federal legislation (including constitutional amendments) to ban discrimination based on sex, gender, and sexual orientation. We oppose measures that restrict rights or create unequal treatment based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

* We support the right of children to be cared for in loving homes, regardless of the sex, gender, sexual orientation, or marital status of the parents. We support the right of all persons to consideration for adoption and foster parenthood without regard to sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

* We support the right of LGBTIQ persons to receive education and care, without discrimination, harassment, or violence based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

* We support the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex. We therefore support the right of intersex and transgender individuals to be free of coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex. We oppose involuntary medical or surgical treatment -including the involuntary treatment of children- to assign gender identity or sex. We support access to medical and surgical treatment for assignment or reassignment of gender or sex, based on informed consent.

* We oppose all forms of anti-LGBTIQ violence, and support legislation against all forms of hate crimes, including those directed against LGBTIQ people.

* We support the rights of artists and performers to free expression. We welcome art and performance that provokes thought and discussion of sex, gender, and sexual orientation.

*Definitions: As used here, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual signify terms by people to define their sexual orientation or identity along a spectrum other than heterosexual. Transgender signifies people whose gender expression or gender identity is different from the gender assigned at birth; Intersex is term used by people whose physical sexual characteristics or genetic makeup is not typically male or female. Queer is a label used to denote any of the permutations of the human sexuality and gender spectrums. Gender is the social construct of sex; it signifies the identity of being male, female, or other. Sex signifies the physical or chromosomal characteristics associated with genitalia and body appearance along a spectrum which includes male and female.

PUBLIC EDUCATION (2003)

We support lifelong public education, with an emphasis on giving our young people the tools they need to navigate their way through the sources of information which will enable them to lead meaningful and productive lives.

An important purpose of education is to prepare young people for leadership and participation in the governance and maintenance of their communities. To do this well, they need experience in participatory democratic practices. Since a good educational system is the most important insurance we have that our country's basic principles of social justice will be preserved, we must allocate sufficient resources to our public school system.

We owe our young people the right to learn to communicate well (read, write and speak), to understand how the world works (science, mathematics and ecology), to learn about the existence and allocation of resources (economics and geography), to study the people who came before us and those who now inhabit the Earth (history, anthropology), and to understand health and human nature (nutrition, psychology and sociology). We must also assure that they learn to value themselves enough to critique what they hear and see in print and in the media.

Young people also should be exposed to the creative arts (music, dance, drama, fine arts) as well as physical education. Vocational education should be included in the curriculum as well.

School has a tremendous influence on people's lives, because it is the primary social institution that young people encounter outside of the family. Schools reflect society's mores, including all of the prejudices and stereotypes which abound in our society. This too often results in the segregation of students by perceived academic and physical ability, language proficiency, religion, wealth, ethnicity and gender, and in the fostering of unhealthy competition. Young people are often tested and graded on meaningless drivel. All of this contributes to the alienation of young people and to feelings of passivity, powerlessness and hopelessness. We must end these practices and transform our schools into communities that nurture everyone involved with them. Our schools must become places where parents want to send their children and where teachers want to work.

Every child should have equitable access to free and appropriate educational resources and opportunities in a well-maintained public school. Since equal state funding does not produce equitable educational opportunities, funding for schools should be related to need. Schools with students living in poverty require higher funding. In addition, schools and districts with high numbers of English language learners and special education students should be funded at higher levels because those students need and deserve enhanced resources.

Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, California budget allocations have slighted education. Because of insufficient funding, teachers are woefully underpaid. An entire generation's music, art and foreign language programs have been dismantled. This is true at the preschool and K-12 grade levels, and in the area of higher education as well. California's community colleges, which educate more students than the University of California and the California State University systems combined, and which particularly serve immigrants, women, people of color, and working class students, receive far less money than they need. We will never have a quality educational system until we provide adequate funding.

Another area of particular concern is the increasing use of mandatory standardized testing, which is educationally indefensible. High-stakes tests impose a climate of fear on students, parents, and teachers. They reduce education to memorizing disconnected facts - the very opposite of the thoughtful engagement in learning our children need. Standardized tests exhibit persistent racial, gender and economic bias. Reliance on test scores inevitably leads to students, teachers and schools being sorted along the lines of race, class, English language proficiency, disability and learning styles. As an alternative to high-stakes tests, we should support the use of tools such as the learning record which rely on the authentic assessment of a student's actual work and have as their primary purpose improving student achievement. Meeting the needs of historically-neglected schools in working class communities and communities of color should be a priority.

The Green Party advocates the following:

* Substantially increase and make more equitable state and federal funding for public education at all levels, from preschool and K-12 to the community college, the California State University and the University of California systems.

* Increase compensation for teachers. Improve teacher support, training, mentoring and sabbaticals. Work to recruit and retain qualified teachers, especially teachers of color. Work toward putting fully-trained teachers in every classroom.

* Work for free education eventually to be available from preschool through community college, university, graduate and professional schools.

* Reaffirm the value of public education and reject the use of public funds to pay for students' attendance at private or parochial schools, or to pay any for-profit organization to manage or run a public school.

* Decrease the student-teacher ratio in classrooms and increase the number of counselors, nurses, librarians and social workers. Provide smaller, more personalized schools and a greater diversity of choices.

* Oppose state or federal requirements to make significant decisions about schools, teachers or students based primarily on test scores.

* Advocate the design and use of a variety of developmentally appropriate assessment techniques that allow necessary accommodations, modifications, and exemptions and are bias-free, reliable and valid. While high-stakes testing remains in use, support legislation encouraging parents to opt their children out of all mandated standardized tests without penalty for students, parents, teachers or schools.

* Promote and fund bilingual and second-language immersion education with trained teachers and appropriate materials and support services.

* Oppose any advertising or promotion of commercial products on a school site or in any adopted or recommended curricular materials or school-based Internet access.

* Develop curricula which make the connection between our rights as individuals and our responsibilities to others and to the earth. New or expanded topics could include bioregional studies, cultural sensitivity, sustainable development, global interdependence, human rights, environmental justice, and peaceful conflict resolution.

* Vocational education high schools and vocation education programs in comprehensive high schools should be revived, expanded and fully funded. Training during the high school years should prepare graduating students for a variety of careers which pay a living wage.

* Add before-school and after-school programs. Nutritious, preferably organic breakfasts and lunches must be available for all students, subsidized according to need.

AIDS/HIV (2003)

All people, including those with AIDS / HIV, have a right to adequate medical care and also protection from discrimination.

We call for humane and adequate handling of ALL people with AIDS/HIV. ALL people in ALL countries, including those with AIDS/HIV, have a right to adequate medical care, protection from discrimination, and confidentiality. Government has a responsibility to protect and advance the health of the public. The AIDS epidemic has been inadequately addressed at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Inadequate research for a cure, education, and medical treatment have occurred. While condom use is often effective as a preventive measure, it is not infallible and constitutes “safer sex” rather than “safe sex”. More research is required to improve condom protectiveness, and in characterizing the risks of oral and other modes of sex.

Drug corporations have a strong profit motivation to make this disease a manageable one (like diabetes) with guaranteed sales of very expensive drugs, in the billions of dollars every year. Drug companies have not emphasized research that targets a cure. While new drugs have dramatically saved lives, many have side effects so debilitating that the quality of life is poor, if not intolerable during the extended lifetime of the patient. But even these need to be produced generically to stop the devastation resulting from corporate refusal to provide these to the millions dying throughout the world who cannot afford these basic lifesaving drugs. Researchers must have a cure as their ultimate goal. A better understanding of HIV and its interaction with the immune system, as researchers are finding, may allow the immune system itself (as it does with other invasive viruses) to recognize and manage HIV. There are many other exciting research possibilities to reach a cure that are languishing because of both a general lack of funding and lack of interest by drug corporations. A new activism must arise: To agitate for a cure and also for the distribution of generic drugs worldwide-like ACT-UP successfully did in the U.S. in the late 80s and 90s for the development of and quick FDA approval of antiviral drugs.

The Green Party of California calls for:

- * Increased funding for AIDS education and patient care
- * Increased funding for comprehensive sex education that includes AIDS education
- * Increased funding for research focusing on a cure, methods of prevention, and on bolstering immune systems.
- * Improved technology, facilities, laboratories, researchers, staff and personnel to cure AIDS/HIV. A Manhattan Project for a Cure is required.
- * COMPLETE sharing of information between researchers, funding agencies (including corporations), and the public on AIDS/HIV before award of the next research grant
- * More research into better methods of prevention of HIV infection. While we support condom use, better condoms are also required. We support more vaccine research.
- * Equal access to AIDS education, treatment and medications for ALL affected. Accordingly, funding and accountability should be increased.
- * Allowing ALL prisoners affected with AIDS/HIV in ALL countries to have the same access to education, treatment, preventive measures (including condom use), and medical care as the civilians of each country of incarceration
- * A uniform international definition of AIDS
- * Protecting the confidentiality of ALL people diagnosed with AIDS/HIV or tested for HIV
- * More careful and timely approval of effective AIDS drugs by the FDA
- * Production of affordable and available versions of patented medicines in ALL countries
- * Targeting the young for age-appropriate education about AIDS/HIV and appropriate methods of prevention. We support the distribution of condoms in schools, and sex education.
- * Providing housing for homeless and poor people with AIDS/HIV
- * Support for needle exchange programs and for programs to help drug addicts
- * No mandatory screening for AIDS/HIV; anonymous screening must be available
- * Lifting the ban prohibiting HIV positive people from entering the U.S. as visitors or as immigrants
- * Single-payer health insurance in the United States
- * Support for medical marijuana as stated by the California Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (formerly Proposition 215), that is, relieve the pain of AIDS/HIV sufferers with marijuana on the recommendation of a physician

PEACE & NONVIOLENCE

ECONOMIC CONVERSION (2003)

National security consists of economic and social well being at least as much as military strength.

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

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

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

The Green Party supports a careful economic conversion plan:

- * Convert our economy to a peaceful basis, including the disposition of closed military sties. This should be planned and administered at local and regional levels. The peace dividend could help to fund these changes.
 - * Conduct a survey of the resources and capabilities that are available, or potentially available, at facilities currently devoted to military production.
 - * Conduct a survey of goods and services needed by society and match these with the capabilities of current military production facilities.
 - * Forewarn employees of plant closures, and provide retraining for displaced workers.
 - * Transfer the ownership of closed military bases to local communities for civilian use.
-

**DEMOCRACY &
ELECTORAL REFORM**

GOVERNMENT SECRECY(2003)

Government derives its legitimate power from the approval of the governed. If a government acts in secret, the electorate cannot give its informed consent. Any action undertaken without the people's explicit approval is undemocratic and compromises the government's legitimacy.

As we are continually discovering, many secret government actions violate the separation and limitation of powers as defined in the Constitution and refined by legislation. In the name of national security, our government frequently conceals its actions, operating on the presumption that it is acting on the people's behalf. But by acting against the citizenry's expressed will, the government is in effect denying the people representation. Worse, it carries out these activities with public funds, violating the principal that there should be no taxation without representation.

The Green Party wants to restore the government's full legitimacy:

- * Increase the public's access to information. Effectively implement and expand the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and make it a crime for any government official to deny or delay action on any such request, or to blot out or censor any portion of any document which is included in a FOIA request.

- * Establish a citizen review board to oversee the process by which the government classifies information, including the Pentagon's "black budget." Prohibit the use of phrases such as "national security" as a sufficient reason to make any governmental action, budget or plan secret.

- * Ensure compliance of all open-meeting laws, e.g., the "Brown Act," at every level of government for holding public hearings, procedures for informing the citizenry about upcoming government actions, citizens' rights to discuss these actions, and opportunities to do so.

- * Pass legislation banning secret government actions unless the public has explicitly sanctioned the goals in question. The legislation must include strict enforcement provisions to punish those responsible for illegitimate covert activities, along with ways to protect "whistle blowers" who report such activities.

- * Provide criminal consequences for any government official who conceals or misrepresents information under their jurisdiction from the public. Include a provision that defines such actions as "crimes and misdemeanors" as declared in the u.s. constitution to make explicit that such actions are impeachable offenses.

- * Keep all governmental records, including all presidential papers and recordings, in the public domain after an official leaves office.

- * Pass legislation removing all secrecy classifications from any governmental document that is ten years old or older.

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES (2003)

The intelligence community's sole function should be to provide accurate and up-to-date information so that the government can make informed foreign policy decisions. We advocate strict control of intelligence agencies.

The United States operates the largest spy agency network in the world. Despite the end of the Cold War, which was allegedly the reason for creating this network, the network has continued to receive massive tax support, now approaching \$100 billion per year. This network, consisting of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of Homeland Security (DSH) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and related agencies, along with some support from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is allegedly supposed to protect the United States and its citizens. But in fact, as the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks starkly showed, these agencies are not able or willing to perform this mission. In addition, these agencies have repeatedly been shown to conduct missions that destabilize other countries and governments and to cover up their mistakes and mislead Congress when convenient to do so. This network and its propensity for secrecy is antithetical to the ideals of a free and open democratic government.

Currently, the intelligence agencies, particularly the CIA, often go beyond providing information and actively interfere in other nations' internal affairs. As instruments of the executive branch, the various intelligence agencies sometimes undertake covert military actions in blatant disregard of the constitutional provision that only the House of Representatives may declare war. These covert actions often serve no purpose other than to subvert and destabilize legitimate governments that disagree with U.S. policies. In direct violation of its charter, the CIA manipulates domestic policies through misinformation and intimidation.

The Green Party advocates strict control of intelligence agencies:

- * Immediately cease the practice of using intelligence agencies for industrial espionage.
 - * The U.S. spy intelligence network and their budgets should be made more visible transparent and accountable to the public; and their operations downsized scrutinized for possible downsizing and redirected for the "post-cold war" era.
 - * These agencies should be stripped of their ability to conduct any actions outside of surveillance and intelligence gathering, and of passing along this information along with foreign policy recommendations to Congress and other appropriate agencies.
 - * Any subversion/destabilization actions conducted by these agencies or any of their members should be rendered as criminal acts in violation of their roles, subject to imprisonment and permanent banishment from further government office.
 - * Heads of these agencies should be held to a standard of accountability higher than most other governmental positions for any actions that their agencies are involved in; and any abrogation of their duties should subject responsible parties to criminal penalties.
 - * Rely more on international intelligence agencies and utilize information that has been disclosed prior by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide accurate and unbiased information as the basis for negotiations, conflict resolution and treaty verification.
-

CORPORATIONS AND DEMOCRACY (2003)

Corporations have accrued legal and political privileges that have no basis in the Constitution of the United States. Under cover of these extra-constitutional privileges, corporations accumulate vast financial resources, which they use to control our political, economic, and cultural life. They achieve this control by influencing and dominating the electoral, legislative, and regulatory processes of government, using their wealth to lobby elected and appointed officials and to manage the information media, thus subverting the democratic rights of the people.

A corporation exists only when the state government grants it a charter. Originally charters were granted for the promotion of the common good, not for the exclusive good of the corporation's owners or executives. Many corporations today have abdicated their responsibility to the common good, and by exclusively pursuing corporate wealth and power they have become severe threats to the environment, to sustainable economies, and to democracy itself. In order to return political rule to the people, corporations must be brought under local democratic control, be required to serve the common good, and be made responsive to the needs of the communities where they make, manage, and sell their products and services.

It is inappropriate for the public policy decisions that shape our communities and affect our lives to be made in private boardrooms, at closed-door regulatory agencies, or in expensive courtrooms. Public policy ought to be made by elected officials in public forums with real and meaningful participation by citizens.

With regard to corporations and accountability to the people, smaller is generally better. Smaller corporations are easier to oversee and hold accountable. A corporation should be no larger than is minimally needed to fulfill its mission. The economies of scale that corporations seek to improve their profitability work to the people's detriment when those economies of scale are applied to labor. Policies to subdivide job responsibilities to the lowest common denominator through the creation of more low-skill, low-responsibility, repetitive work may help a company's bottom line and improve service standardization; but they simultaneously reduce workers to a replaceable commodity and strip them of their creativity and, thus, humanity. Such jobs do not serve communities. Smaller corporations tend to require a larger proportion of higher-skilled employees, which is a community benefit.

The Green Party of California intends to end corporate rule and create real democracy, where "We, the People" rule. In order to achieve this goal, we acknowledge that current law and judicial decisions have clothed corporations with more rights and freedoms than those of natural human persons, allowing corporations to illegally and immorally usurp political power. We categorically reject the illegitimate granting to corporations of the legal status of "person", based erroneously upon the Supreme Court case of *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railway* (1886). Because of this and other erosions of our Constitution, we must now reclaim our sovereign right to define corporations, not just regulate them. To achieve these ends, the Green Party of California proposes the following actions.

To prohibit corporations from usurping the exclusively human rights reserved for citizens in the Constitution and its Amendments:

* Eliminate the fiction of corporate personhood, through judicial review, legislative action, or constitutional amendment.

* Modify or eliminate other corporate claims to constitutional protection, in clauses such as the Interstate Commerce clause, the Contracts clause, and the Takings clause.

* Prohibit any corporation doing business in the State of California from paying or contributing, or offering to pay or contribute, directly or indirectly, any money, property, or anything of value to any political party, committee, organization, or individual, for any political purpose whatsoever, or for the purpose of influencing legislation of any kind, or to promote or defeat the candidacy of any person for nomination, appointment, or election to any political office.

To bring corporations back into the service of local communities:

* Rewrite the California corporate code to confirm that a corporation's responsibility is primarily to its workers and to the community where it operates, and to reflect the historic principle that a corporation is a public entity and must act in the public interest or have its charter revoked.

* Strengthen corporate law to allow for the charter revocation or banishment from the state of corporations which are deemed contrary to the public good, or which are convicted of repeated violations of law, including activities that would normally be considered criminal for any individual to conduct.

* Encourage the partitioning of all corporations through legislated incentives to a size that supports the highest standards of living among the local populace where the corporations operate, and encourage higher proportions of stakeholders to become shareholders by promoting worker buyouts of corporations. Provide agency powers to force such changes on any corporation that is found to be in willful or negligent violation of any public statute, policy, or law by any level of government.

To restore a more democratic system of wealth distribution:

* End corporate welfare such as tax havens, subsidies, and unmonitored government contracts for corporations run for profit.

* Renegotiate or abrogate international trade agreements that do not favor people-oriented, sustainable economics.

* Protect and strengthen the people's rights and control over their Commons, such as forests, water, air, radio frequencies, data formats, internet protocol, and electronic distribution, and to defend these public resources from commodification.