

Estuarine Resources –Environmental Quality – 1973 (Updated in 2018)

The concern about water quality led the LWV of the United States to consider U.S. river basins and estuaries in the national study of water resources in 1973. The League position, which resulted from this study, stated that the nations' regions and river basins should be planned for, and that their water resources should be developed and administered as entities, in differing ways, suitable for each basin or region. Expanding on this, the LWV of Juneau developed this statement of position on estuarine resources in Southeast Alaska.

The League supported a re-zoning study of the Mendenhall Wetlands and stressed the importance of planning and zoning other estuarine areas in a careful manner. The Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge was established in 1976. As an ideal, estuarine areas should be left in a natural state. Uses must be adjusted to control estuarine alteration; over-development of the area must not be allowed. Also, the League encourages all concerned agencies to research estuaries, and to correlate this research in order to have a basis for comparison of the effects of development, particularly industrial development on a specific estuary.

In updating this position in 2018, the League notes that water quality remains a critical concern within Southeast Alaska and continues to support and provide input to the City and Borough in their planning and zoning efforts in this area.