

An Environmental Affair

Volume 20, Issue 6

June 2000

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in The City of Los Angeles.

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A Day At the Beach



As warm weather approaches many people start dreaming about lazy days under the sun on a hot California beach. Southern California's beaches are famous for their beauty. Most people don't realize that when it comes to ocean pollution, the biggest culprit is individuals, not industry. While many Americans believe the ocean is seriously threatened with lasting damage caused by human activities, they greatly underestimate the individual's role in harming the ocean. A survey conducted on behalf of The Ocean Project* found the majority of survey participants blamed industry as the leading cause of ocean pollution when, in reality, most ocean pollution is caused by contaminated run-off from yards, parking lots and roads. In fact, street run-off and individual dumping into municipal storm drains are responsible for 15 times more oil reaching the ocean than the Exxon Valdez dumped (35,000 tons of oil were released into Alaska's Prince William Sound in 1989), according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The study represents one of the first comprehensive national efforts to measure the public's connections, values, attitudes and knowledge relating to the oceans.

Survey results suggest that educating people about how and why the oceans are important to human survival is not enough to inspire individual responsibility and action. In fact, the survey

reveals that existing concerns for the ocean have little to do with specific knowledge about why oceans are essential for human survival.

The good news is that approximately one in three Americans has visited an aquarium, zoo, or museum in the past 12 months, presenting these institutions with a unique opportunity to channel the public's love for the ocean into a sense of individual responsibility. To bridge the knowledge gap, The Ocean Project is launching a campaign to educate the public about the importance of oceans and the need to protect them.

What you can do:

- ♦ Clean up after your pet.
- ♦ Recycle your used motor oil.
- ♦ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway.
- ♦ Wash your car on your lawn or at a car wash that recycles its water.
- ♦ Don't litter.
- ♦ Pick up litter.
- ♦ Don't use chemicals on your garden.



Remember it all gets washed to our oceans-and do you really want to swim in that?



*The Ocean Project was formerly known as the Ocean Awareness Campaign.

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 580-1052. TDD (213) 977-7062. You can also reach us by fax: (213) 580-1084, e-mail: info@ead.ci.la.ca.us, or visit our Web site at www.lacity.org/ead. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Printed on recycled paper.

PLEASE POST

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Editor

Earth Day 2000 A Success



Saturday, April 22, 2000 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the worldwide Earth Day celebration. Dozens of events throughout Southern California were held to commemorate the occasion and to take advantage of the opportunity to actively improve the environment. Fifteen thousand people attended Los Angeles' largest event, EarthFaire 2000 in Exposition Park. (*Los Angeles Times*, 4/23/00, B8). Following the inaugural rally in Pershing Square, the Clean Energy Ride and Walk participants traveled the four-mile course to the Coliseum on foot, bicycle, and alternative-fuel vehicle (AFV). As part of the wider EarthFaire, the Clean Energy Fair featured 100 exhibitors from around California, an organic farmer's market, displays and booths showcasing cutting-edge environmentally responsible products, examples of solar and wind energy successes, and activities for children. A spring clean-up project

was also conducted in the neighborhoods surrounding the Faire site which entailed picking-up trash and painting over graffiti in addition to a tree planting at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. A significant clean-up event also took place in Marina del Rey involving more than 250 volunteers—some of whom collected garbage out of the harbor from a fleet of 75 kayaks. The marina and harbor area was relieved of approximately 1600 pounds of garbage including 400 pounds of recyclables. Two-hundred and fifty volunteers also turned out to plant 450 oak and sycamore trees in Lake View Terrace to enhance the Hansen Dam Recreation Area and prevent soil erosion on the nearby hillsides.

The Earth Day Network reported that it helped to coordinate more than 1,300 similar events involving more than 1,000 affiliated organizations throughout the U.S. Notably, this year's Earth Day generated an unprecedented amount of internet-dialogue in preparation for the big event.



File It Under "Recycled"

On April 27, EAD participated in "Clean Your Files Day", part of the the National Office Paper Recycling Project. Staff removed unnecessary paper from their work spaces to be recycled by the City Facilities Recycling Program (CFRP). We measured our paper stacks and awarded prizes to the top recyclers in the department. In total, we recovered 20 feet of paper in one day and pledged to reduce our future paper usage.

The recovery of office waste paper is important to recycling

processes as is market and product development. Environmentally, recycling conserves trees, landfill space, water and energy while preventing pollution. The City also benefits from cost savings in hauling and landfill fees as these materials diverted from the waste stream are put to productive reuse.

As you know, it's also very important to reduce the amount of paper you use and to reuse paper whenever possible.

In this spirit, the CFRP

offers the following tips:

Always ask yourself:

1. Do I really need a copy ?
2. Are my files full of duplicates and paper junk ?

Then:

1. Save files electronically on hard drives or disks.
2. Duplex your multipage documents - it's City policy.
3. Reuse blank, unused portions of old documents for scratch paper.
4. Update your mailing or distribution list to avoid duplication.

Federal Collaboration on Urban Greening Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has teamed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote urban greening and revitalization. To recognize the thirtieth anniversary of Earth Day, the two agencies announced the agreement which will focus on enhancing and maintaining green and open spaces at public housing developments and other sites in cities and towns across the country. The partnership will draw upon HUD's HOPE VI Program, which provides financial assistance to revitalize public housing, and USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Services, which will handle tree planting, care and maintenance, natural resources planning, soils inventory, open space design, storm water management, and conservation education. In expressing his support for the program, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman said it reflected the agency's high-level prioritization of improving green and open spaces in urban areas, stating

that, "This agreement will help strengthen our cities' green infrastructure and make communities more livable through sound natural resources stewardship." HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo echoed the prominent role of greening in community development, "HUD is transforming public housing developments around the country, replacing deteriorated high-rises that create urban blight with new garden apartment complexes that can help revitalize neighborhoods...Trees are an important part of this transformation."

USDA is undertaking another urban greening collaboration project with the District of Columbia. The research-based project involves six DC public schools and scientists at the National Arboretum. The participating students will sign a partnership agreement pledging to care for and monitor the growth of six trees including a new kind of flowering cherry tree called the *Prunus* "Dream-Catcher" that was developed by the scientists. For more information about the partnerships, please contact Susan McAvoy at USDA: susan.mcavoy@usda.gov or David Egner at HUD: DavidM.Egner@hud.gov.



EAD WEB PAGE NEWS

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) website includes information about the Department's environmental programs, publications and services. The website showcases an electronic version of its monthly newsletter, *An Environmental Affair*, in addition to a listing of local environmental events, job announcements and available

grants.

As an added bonus, there is an environmental impact report database, courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library. The web site also has an invaluable agency index as well as a listing of local environmental organizations that provide information and/or services to the community. Please visit the EAD website at www.lacity.org/EAD.

Staff Changes in the EAD



This month EAD's General Manager, Lillian Kawasaki, accepted a temporary appointment as Interim General Manager of the City's Community Development Department. Susan Parks, her Executive Secretary, has accompanied her to CDD.

Interim General Manager for EAD is Detrich Allen, formerly the Department's Assistant GM.

Gary Gero has been appointed Interim Director of EAD's Air Quality Division.

5 Reasons To Fill Out Your Form Sheet



1. Help your community thrive.
2. Get help in time of need.
3. Make government work for you.
4. Reduce risk for American business.
5. Help yourself and your family.

If you have any questions about Census 2000, please call (888) 325-7733 or www.2000.census.gov

You can make a difference!

What's New at the Zoo?

Our own Los Angeles Zoo is home to 1,200 animals representing 350 species and is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Two snow leopards made their debut at the Zoo on May 18. The leopards, Asia and Ramir, live in a brand new state-of-the-art exhibit area, which was opened to the public for the debut. Their 3,675-square-foot home is located near the Reptile House and includes rocky outcroppings, a running stream and a small pond as a simulation of the high-altitude landscape of



the snow leopards' natural habitat, which can reach as high as 17,000 feet during the summer months.

Other animals which are currently featured on the LA Zoo's "Critter Close-Up" website with picture and video presentations are: "Rabbits and Their Habits"; "Springtime Bringing up Babies" featuring Emperor Tamarins, sifakas, duikers, and gerenuks, two maned wolf pups, three baby chimpanzees, and a young alpaca; "happy couples" such as Maggie and Otis (the hippos); and last, but certainly not least, Komodo dragons. The Zoo has ongoing programs for people of all ages such as the Toddler Totes (for children aged 2, with an adult); Breakfast Safari (ages 3-7, with an adult);

Critters 'n' Kids (ages 3-4, with an adult); Zookapers (ages 5-6); Zoo Explorers (ages 7-10); and Adult Learning-which include many events considered appropriate for teens. The Zoo has planned a variety of spring/summer events that range from a family camping trip to Pismo Beach at the end of May and its 30th anniversary bash, the Beastly Ball, in mid-June, to the Summer Zoo Camp during July-September, and the marine science weekend on Catalina Island in August. For more information about these events, you may contact the Zoo at www.lazoo.org/ or by telephone at (323) 644-6400.



Victory Boulevard Beautification



The Valley Glen Community Council's grand beautification project broke ground this April 29th. The beautification project entails the planting of trees along four medians adjacent Victory Blvd in the Valley Glen area. The funding for the project is being provided by several sources: the Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership (LAURP) awarded Valley Glen Community Council an Urban Reforestation grant in the amount of \$3,450 for planting 30-15-gallon trees along the Victory Boulevard median, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) was responsible for the initial field preparation and supervision for the tree plantings, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), is providing additional trees and labor through its grant-funded project

"Cool Green Communities" and Councilman Michael Feuer's office is funding the installation of irrigation systems for two of the median sections. The Valley Glen Community Council provided volunteers to plant the trees and the City's Bureau of Street Services is providing truck watering for the trees and mulch to cover the medians.

Although ten trees that were planted at the ground breaking were cut by vandals, replacement was quickly carried out on May 6 in combination with the planting of 25 additional trees.

Future planting of more trees on the medians and neighborhood streets is being planned.

If you would like more information on LAURP urban forestry grants, please call Chelsea Cochrane at (626) 312-4901.

Did You Know? Bat

- ♦ Bat droppings in caves support whole ecosystems of unique organisms, including bacteria useful in detoxifying wastes, producing gasohol and antibiotics.
- ♦ A colony of 150 brown bats can protect local farmers from up to 33 million rootworms each summer.
- ♦ An anticoagulant from vampire bat saliva may soon be used to treat human heart patients.
- ♦ Tropical bats are key elements in rain forest ecosystems, which rely on them to pollinate flowers and disperse seeds for countless trees and shrubs.

To learn more about bats go to www.batcon.org

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant- Supports grassroots community groups by financing capital improvement projects that benefit Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Deadline: August 8, 2000. (Depending on council district.)

Contact: Check the NMF Web site for updates at www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf or call Michael Espinosa at (213) 485-1034.

Planning (CWA §205) and Nonpoint Source Implementation (CWA §319) Grant- The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) recently released their annual request for proposals (RFP) announcing the availability of water quality grants under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 205 (planning) and Section 319 (nonpoint source implementation). Selected projects will receive funding through a state contract with the SWRCB.

Deadline: All proposals are due no later than June 16, 2000.

Contact: The RFP and other reference documents are available on the SWRCB NPS Home Page at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/nps/home.html>.

GRANTS WITHOUT A DEADLINE

California Community Foundation – Support for the rehabilitation, maintenance and beautification of parks and recreation areas. Contact Sr. Program Secretary at (213) 413-4130, or visit the Web site at www.calfund.org for more info.

California State Coastal Conservancy – Proposition 204 funding specifically allocated for LA River Projects that focus on habitat restoration, construction of public access facilities and others. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more info.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Loan program established by the Clean Water Act to local agencies for water quality improvement projects. Call the EPA Water Division at (415) 744-1948 for more info.

Economic Development Administration Grants – The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will give priority consideration to projects that help communities achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the Web site at www.doc.gov/eda for more info.

Energy Research Grants – The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is seeking applicants for up to \$6 million in grants to research renewable energy programs. Call the US Department of Energy at (800) 683-0751 for more info.

Jobs Through Recycling – Recycling business development program that seeks to foster recycling/reuse businesses that increase the use of recyclable or reusable materials and contribute to economic development and jobs creation. Call Julia Wolfe with the EPA Waste Management Division at (415) 744-2131 for more info.

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Provides loans to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call the EPA Drinking Water Office at (415) 744-1852 for more info.



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

24-hour Wildflower Hotline (818) 768-3533

Sponsored by The Theodore Payne Foundation, callers to the free Wildflower Hotline are directed to when and where to see the best blooms from over 30 locations throughout Southern California. New this year—all information will be posted to www.theodorepayne.org.

Down-by-the-River Walks



Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join them at **4:30pm. on the third Sunday of each month** for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. Location varies each month and some walks feature brief talks highlighting natural, historical, artistic, or political aspects of the River. The walk is canceled if it's raining. For more information, visit the FoLAR Web site at www.folar.org, or contact Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Habitat Restoration Days

Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Everyone is invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds in this rewarding work project. **Every second Saturday of the month.**

Also, morning maintenance is done



from 9am-noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, call (310) 32-MARSH.

Hyperion Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours are available each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for information or to schedule a tour.



Japanese Garden Tours

Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information call (818) 756-8166.

Satwiwa Sundays

From 10am to 5pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301 for more information.

Smart Gardening Workshops



The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program will be holding its Smart Gardening workshops throughout the County during the Spring. Topics covered are backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.smartgardening.com.

The EAD Web site, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our Web site calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

THIS MONTH:

June 3

Whale Fiesta. Come join the fun at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium—it's a family day filled with activities and exhibits for all. We'll build a life-sized gray whale out of sand on the beach. Enter the



Great Cetacean Creation Sand Sculpture Contest, listen to music in our courtyard while browsing the displays and booths of our visiting groups and organizations, participate in kid's activities. For more info. call Larry Fukuhara at 310/548-7562, ext. 5011.

Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden. Create your own backyard sanctuary. Come for a morning of information about plants and backyard configurations that welcome birds, butterflies and more. Sponsored by TreePeople, 9:30am-12noon. For more info. call: (818) 753-4600.

June 6

"An Evening with the Vint Cerf". Join ISOC-LA, the Association of Internet Professionals, the Digital Coast Roundtable, Larta – the technology alliance for Southern California, Web Girls, the Wednesday Night SIG, Zone Communications and Direct Stock Market, as we come together and host a dinner with Vint and listen to him share his vision the Internet in the 21st Century. 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm at Los Angeles Airport Marriott. For more info call: (310) 641-5700.

June 8

"Making the River Part of the Community and the Community Part of the River" The future of Chinatown Yards/The

Cornfield. This event will involve a presentation by a team of UCLA researchers who will present their findings on the proposed Cornfield development. 7pm, sponsored by Occidental College and Friends of the Los Angeles River. For more info. call: (323) 259-2566.

June 9

Workshop. Learn how to apply for Proposition 12 funds through workshops sponsored by The Trust For Public Lands. 10am-1:15pm, RSVP required, call (213) 744-7465.

**June 10**

Workshop. Learn how to apply for Proposition 12 funds through workshops sponsored by The Trust For Public Lands. 10am-1:15pm, RSVP required, call (213) 744-7465.

Everyday is Earth Day. Explore the splendor of Franklin Canyon on a moderately paced hike. Learn ways to protect the environment. 9am-11am, for more info call: (310) 858-3090.

Learn to Make Native American Crafts. The William O. Douglas outdoor classroom offers a hands-on workshop in Franklin Canyon Park. 1-4pm, for more info. call: (310) 858-7272 ext.132.

June 11

On to Something. Call this a mystery hike if you like. The route will be moderate, the fun intense. 8am-2pm, Point Dume State Preserve, sponsored by California State Parks, for more info. call: (818) 880-0350.

Sacred Water, Living Energy. Gain an understanding of the essence of water and its fundamental importance to all life. 10am-12pm, Sooky Goldman Nature Center, for more info. call : (310) 858-3090.

June 14

Neighborhood Council Plan. Help define the guidelines for your Neighborhood Council Plan. Canoga Park, Winnetka, Woodland Hills, Reseda, West Van Nuys, Encino, Tarzana: a meeting will be held at Sherman Oaks Center, 18605 E. Erwin St, 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info. call: (213) 485-1360.

June 17

Birdwatching for Beginners. Learn to identify the many bird species of southern California on this easy paced walk. Bring binoculars. Santa Monica Mountains, 8am-11am, sponsored by Malibu Creek Docents, for more info. call: (818) 889-6238.

June 18

"Down by the River... Walk—Meander Along the Scenic Elysian Valley" Visit this lush soft bottom stretch and see North East Trees' beautiful new pocket parks. 4:30pm at Oros Park, sponsored by Occidental College and Friends of the Los Angeles River. For more info. call: (323) 259-2566.

This is Los Angeles? Savor the peace and sculptural beauty of woodlands nestled among sandstone boulders in Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. 10am-12pm, for more info. call: (818) 346-9620.

Landscaping for Dry Climates. Learn about landscaping with native plants from author and professor Bob Perry. Create a palette and then learn to plant, water, and care for plants like a pro. National Park Service Visitor Center, 2pm-4pm, for more info. call: (805) 370-2301.

June 23

Music in the Mudflats. Join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in nearby Salinas de San Pedro to enjoy a family evening of musical selections under the stars and among local and migratory creatures that call the marsh home. For more info. call: (310) 548-7562.

**June 28**

Neighborhood Council Plan. Help define the guidelines for your Neighborhood Council Plan. Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Toluca Lake, North Hollywood: a meeting will be held at CBS Studios, 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info. call: (213) 485-1360.

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HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 580-1052**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. You can also visit our Web site at www.cityofla.org/ead and click on the Environmental Information Center Link.

AIR QUALITY

Calidad del aire

South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

ASBESTOS – Asbestos

Environmental Hygiene
(213) 738-4078

BEE INFESTATIONS

Infestaciones de abejas
Vector Control
(800) 233-9279

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

Recogida de artículos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

ILLEGAL DUMPING INTO STORM DRAINS

*Depositos ilegales en los drenajes de
desagües*
Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

LEAD POISONING – Veneno del plomo

National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

LEAF BLOWERS – Sopladores de hojas

Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

MOSQUITOES

Infestaciones de mosquitos
L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

RECYCLING – Reciclaje

City of L.A. Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489