

# An Environmental Affair

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November 2001

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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## Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas Wins 2001 Clean Air Award

On October 17, 2001, Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas received a Clean Air Award from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for "Leadership in Government."



Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas receiving a Clean Air Award.

Councilmember Ridley-Thomas was recognized for his vision, hard work, and success as Chair of the Council's Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee and, specifically, for his thoughtfulness and conviction in proposing a Clean Fuels Policy for the City.

In winning the award, Councilmember Ridley-Thomas said, "There is no denying the adverse public health effects of diesel emissions on air quality in the South Coast basin. The City's responsibility is to provide service in an environmentally-responsible manner, including the use of clean vehicles and clean fuels for the City's fleet."

On May 31, 2000, the Council adopted the Clean Fuels Policy to support and implement alternative fuel applications by supporting programs and regulations that balance environmental benefits against operational concerns such as safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. The major parts of the Clean Fuels Policy commit the City Council to promote the use and purchase of vehicles which utilize clean fuels and/or electric propulsion and address health and safety issues and cumulative impacts of conventional and alternative fuel technologies on all neighborhoods, particularly low-income communities of color.

In her nomination of Councilmember Ridley-Thomas, EAD General Manager, Detrich B. Allen said, "Because of his well-recognized efforts on behalf of our environment, Mark Ridley-Thomas is well poised to lead the charge for the next

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*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) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: [info@mailbox.lacity.org](mailto:info@mailbox.lacity.org), or visit our website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead).

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## EAD's Air Division Welcomes New Arrival

The Air Quality Division welcomes Andrew Cvitanovich as a Student Professional Worker. Andrew is a senior in the public policy program at Pomona College. Welcome Andrew!



## "Voices for Healthy Environments, Healthy Communities and Healthy Jobs" A Town Hall Meeting

Join more than 20 community-based groups and their members working on environmental health and justice issues in Southern California at a Town Hall Meeting in December. The event will be a chance for community groups and concerned citizens from the L.A. area to meet and discuss environmental issues that affect their health. There will be community group presentations with an open microphone for a chance to discuss research needs and issues with scientists, regulators, health officials and legislators. Workshop topics will include environmental justice and health disparities, children's health, air pollution, school siting, asthma, and public participation in environmental health decisions.

The event will be held on Friday, December 7, 2001 from 1-7 pm and Saturday, December 8, 2001, all day. The location of the meeting is at the First Church of God at 9550 Crenshaw Blvd in the city of Inglewood.



The event is Co-sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (USC and UCLA), UCLA-Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, and more than 20 organizations in Southern California who are "community partners" in organizing the event.

Registration is required. For more information, visit <http://www.iosh.ucla.edu>. To register, contact Quintin Robinson (UCLA-LOSH) at 323-497-5964 or email [Scehsc@usc.edu](mailto:Scehsc@usc.edu). ¿Preguntas en Español? Llame a Mirna Troncoso (USC) 323-442-2745.

## "Environmentality Begins With Me"

The Walt Disney Company along with the State of California's Environmental Education Interagency Network (CCEIN) have created a great opportunity for teachers to use the environment as an integrating tool to motivate the interest of their students. The "Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge" program aims to help 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes work to develop and submit environmental projects. This program not only has allowed students to become more inclined toward the environment, but it has also proved itself to be an educational booster as previous participating classes have demonstrated significant improvement on their test scores. To date, this educational program has touched well over 345,000 students across California.

The deadline for new classes to register is November 16, 2001, with class projects due the following March. Teachers who've previously enrolled need not sign-up again. For more info, please call (800) 290-0299, or visit <http://oehha.ca.gov/ceein/jim/index.htm>.



© Disney

## There's Nothing Delicious About Eating Tainted Fish



For nearly 30 years, Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) has been banned in the United States due to its ability to cause severe impacts to both the environment and human health. Recent fish catches from the waters off Palos Verdes, where there are large pesticide deposits, have shown fish contaminated with high amounts of pesticides such as DDT and PCB.

The Palos Verdes shelf in Santa Monica Bay and San Pedro contains approximately 100 tons of DDT spread across 17 square miles; a result of the Montrose Chemical Corporation manufacturing DDT in Los Angeles and discharging about 1,800 tons of the chemical into the county sewers from 1947 to 1971, until DDT was finally banned in 1972.

DDT and a few other banned pesticides are believed to cause cancer in humans who consume contaminated fish and to disrupt the hormones of marine animals. DDT is hazardous because of its bioaccumulation properties that increase its potential to cause severe health issues. In order to prevent further contaminated fish consumption, the EPA has allocated \$7.8 million in funds for an educational campaign to inform Southern California residents of the dangers.

The program will be targeted to educate commercial and sports fishermen, restaurants, and consumers over a 10-year period. The program aims to monitor white croaker and other locally caught species to determine whether contaminated fish still are entering the marketplace. If results suggest a concern for safety, the California Department of Fish and Game will increase enforcement to prevent white croaker caught in Los Angeles and Long Beach waters from entering the market. The EPA's education program is an interim step as the agency studies and evaluates other programs in search of a long-term solution to prevent further spread of contaminated fish.

For more information relating to sport fishing and fish contamination, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's website, <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/general/99fish.html>, also provides general advice and information on fish preparations, consumption, and catch.

## America Recycles Day



The 5th annual celebration of America Recycles Day is just around the corner. Events will be held throughout the nation by cities and counties to promote recycling and waste reduction programs as well as to highlight the beneficial contributions that recycling and resource conservation make to both the economy and the environment.

The California Steering Committee urges everyone to participate by demonstrating your eagerness to recycle in your community with creative recycling events such as working with local schools and artists to hold an "Art from Scrap" contest, providing recognition to local businesses in your community that make a gallant effort to reduce waste, and promoting recycled-content products during the period of November 10-17, 2001.

This noble event began in 1997 and has continually grown each year after. Last year's America Recycles Day was a superb success, as all 50 states joined in to celebrate with 3.3 million participants involved. There is little doubt that this year's event will be as spectacular, so take action and join in on the fun.

If you are interested in planning a recycling collection and promotion event during California Recycles Week, contact Gene Harm at the Department of Conservation (916) 323-1886 or visit <http://www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org>.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$  
(See the EAD website for other current grant opportunities.)

**Pulling Together Initiative**

Provides a means for federal agencies to be full partners with state and local agencies, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. Full Proposal Due Date: *November 6, 2001*, Notification Date: April 1, 2002. Contact: Gary Kania, kania@nfwf.org, and visit: [www.nfwf.org/programs/rfp\\_2002.html](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/rfp_2002.html).

**Brownfields Cleanup**

The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots Program is accepting applications from states, political subdivisions of states and Indian Tribes. Deadline is *November 15, 2001*. For more info, contact Barbara Bassuener at (202)260-8619 or Jennifer Wilbur at (202)260-6454.

**Environmental Education**

The Environmental Education Grants Program is offering funds to local educational agencies, state educational or environmental agencies, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations. The deadline for applications is *November 15, 2001*. For more info on small grants contact EPA Regional Offices at (800) 808-8058, or for large grants contact Sheri Jojokian (202) 260-8619.

**LEAF-It-To-Us Tree Planting Grant**

A tree planting grant program established by the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection for school kids to improve their school environments. Grant applicable to schools only. Deadline for applications is *November 15, 2001*. Call the CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection at (909)782-4140.

**2002-03 Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program (EEMP) Grant**

State Program offering \$10 million to local, State, and federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts for the 2002-03 period. Applications are due by *November 16, 2001*. For more info, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/eem/> or call (916) 653-5656.

**Wetland Protection Development Grant**

State/Tribal/Local Government Wetlands Protection Development Grant Program is now available for state, local and tribal governments in EPA Region 6 to apply for funding. The application deadline is *November 30, 2001*. For more information, contact Sondra McDonald at (214) 665-7187 or email at [McDonald.sondra@epa.gov](mailto:McDonald.sondra@epa.gov).

**Wetlands Conservation Grants**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program is accepting grant applications from state and local governments, public agencies, institutes for higher education, and nonprofit organizations. The deadline is *November 30, 2001*. For more details contact Keith Morehouse at (703) 358-1784.

**2002 Earth Day Program Grants**

The California State Parks Foundation is offering grants to State Parks, community parks, schools and nonprofit organizations for support of environmental restoration or cleanup projects that enhance public open spaces. Grants up to \$2,000 will be awarded to projects that utilize collective work by community volunteers such as community garden plantings. The deadline is December 3, 2001. For more information, call 1-888-98-PA RKS or (415) 258-9975, or email to [earthday@calparks.org](mailto:earthday@calparks.org).

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# NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## EACH MONTH:

### 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 4:30 pm. on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more info., visit the FoLAR website: [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org), or call Joe Linton: (213) 381-3570.

### 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 info call (818) 756-8166.

### Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd: (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

### Habitat Restoration Days

Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona



Marsh Preserve. You are invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds

every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am - noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. Call (310) 32-MARSH.

### Afternoons in the Lab

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The lab, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro, opens with a different theme each week. The science education afternoon is free. Groups should make reservations. For more info, call: (310) 548-7562.

### Satwiwa Sundays

From 10 am to 5 pm 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 info.

### Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round throughout the County. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com).



"Smart Gardening" and Composting workshops also are held at Griffith Park. Call the Bureau of Sanitation: (213) 473-8228 for more information.

### Nature-Bird Walk

Two walks will take place—one on Saturday, and one on Sunday—both at 10 am. The walks will meander through the Madrona Marsh Preserve, starting at the Natural History Center in Torrance. Call (310) 32-MARSH.



The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://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 website 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.

### Recycling Workshops

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. For info, please call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228

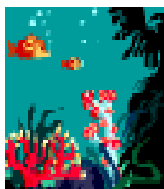
### Tyke Hike

This hike is scheduled every first Thursday of the month in the Madrona Marsh Preserve and involves looking for animal tracks, listening for singing birds, observing habitat changes and wildflower cycles. A \$5 donation per family is requested for the Natural History Center Education Programs; reservations appreciated. Call Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32-MARSH.



### Baldwin Hills Hikes

These are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For details, see the LA Audubon Society website: [www.LAAudubon.org](http://www.LAAudubon.org) or call: (323) 876-0202.

**THIS MONTH:**

### **November 3 Science at the Seashore**

Learn about marine plants and animals as you join the education staff and volunteers in maintaining the Cabrillo Native Garden. Registration is not required, however groups are asked to call ahead. The event will run from 9 am – 12 pm. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

### **November 4**

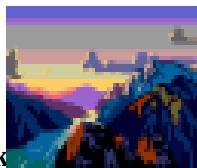
#### **L.A. Zoo Photo Day**

Adult photographers of all skill levels rejoice! The 12-annual Los Angeles Zoo Photo Day is just around the corner. The day of events is filled with special sessions and exciting photographic opportunities not accessible to the general public. Top camera manufacturers will be on hand to answer questions and lend their expertise.

Telephoto stations will be set up in front of favorite zoo exhibits, allowing the opportunity to take professional-quality animal portraits. There

is an \$80 fee for Greater L.A. Zoo Association members (\$85 for non-members) that includes break-

Photo Day T-shirt, and a full day of activities. Reservations are required. For more info, visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or contact the Zoo's reservation office at (323) 644-4211.



#### **Ballona Fest 2001**

The Friends of the Ballona Wetlands are having their annual

festival from 11 am – 4 pm in the city of Playa del Rey at 303 Culver Blvd. The festival celebrates the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands and will include music, fun, environmental exhibits that will surely provide an educational experience. The event is free and is open to all. For more info, call (310) 574-0700 or visit <http://www.ballona-wetlands.org>.



### **November 7**

#### **L.A. Zoo Travel Night**

Come join others and participate in an orientation taking place in the Grand Room of the Andrew Norman Education Building to hear information on all of L.A. Zoo's trips for this year. Speak with trip leaders, see slide shows, and enjoy refreshments at this free event. Orientation begins at 7 pm. For reservations, call Jeanne King at (323) 644-4792 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.

#### **Science at the Seashore**

Take part in activities concerning the local coastal environment at the free Discovery Lab at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium from 3-5 pm. Explore marine specimens and participate in various weekly activities. Other scheduled dates are November 14, 21, 28 from 3-5 pm. For more info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.



### **November 8-10**

**Restoring the Beach—  
Science, Policy, & Funding**  
The California Shore and Beach Preservation Association

(CSBPA) and California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast) Joint Conference held in San Diego is a diverse collection of information relating to marine habitat. The 3-day event will feature numerous speeches relating to restoration, sedimentation, environmental monitoring programs, and much more. Meals are included as well as a marine orientation field trip. There is a fee of \$40 plus additional registration fees. For more info about becoming a conference sponsor or exhibitor, contact CalCoast at (760) 944-3564, email [steveaceti@calcoast.org](mailto:steveaceti@calcoast.org), or visit <http://www.calcoast.org/events/conf2001/conf2001.htm>.

### **November 10**

#### **Family Nature Walks 2001**

Feel and observe the beauty of nature with The Children's Nature Institute's Family Nature Walk held at Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary at 10am. Give our baby, toddler or young child the gift of trained volunteer leaders who make the trails come alive for you and your children. Plenty of walks are scheduled throughout November and at other site locations. For info, call (310) 364-3591 or visit <http://www.ChildrensNatureInstitute.org>.



### **November 11**

#### **Turtles and Tortoises**

Learn about the Gabrielino Indians who inhabited the South Bay, where the Madrona Marsh Preserve is located, as a speaker from the Southwest Museum discusses various aspects about native culture. Other activities include observing plants used by the Indians in their daily life. The event will take place from 2-4 pm.

There is a fee of \$10 per family or \$5 per person. To make reservations, call (310) 618-2720. For more info, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989 or The Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32MARSH.

### **November 14 New Bird Walk**

View the beginning fall migrates feeding on massive fields of sunflowers with the native resident birds. Join the special group tour or choose to walk anywhere on the preserve at any time by yourself to view the 103

species of spring migrates. This walk will captivate bird lovers and will be a bird walk unlike any other. For more info, call the Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32MARSH.



### **November 15**

#### **A Visual Display**

Janice Dahl's "The Lost Jewel of the Coast: Los Cerritos Wetlands" will be presented at the Whittier Area Audubon Society's monthly meeting in the Whittier

Community Center. Janice Dahl, member of the El Dorado Audubon, will be presenting her original work demonstrating how the efforts of one person can be effective. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and is open to the public. For more info, contact Jean Beaton, Program chair at (562) 869-6545 or visit <http://www.whittieraudubon.org>.

### **America Recycles Day**

Take part in America Recycles Day from the week of November 10-17, 2001. Join in the celebration as cities and counties throughout the nation celebrate recycling and waste reduction. For more info, visit <http://www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org> or call (916) 323-1886

### **November 16**

#### **L.A. Zoo Career Night**

Meet animal keepers, educators, curators, and veterinary staff, and discover what paths they took to break into their chosen fields at L.A. Zoo's Career Night. This event is for all who have thought about working with animals or in a zoo setting. Ask and listen to information about this exciting field. There is a \$10 fee for

members; \$15 for non-members; \$5 for parent/chaperone. For more info, visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or call (323) 644-4211.

### **November 19 Science at the Seashore**

Join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's educational staff for a series of after school hands-on marine science adventures where you'll be allowed to observe and examine rocky shore animals during a hike along tidepools; delve into the wonders of mud at the salt marshes, get up close with microscopes, and take part in fish dissections. Sessions are open for grades K-2 and will run each Monday until December 10; with a cost of \$28 for the general public and \$25 for members. For more info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.



### **November 22**

#### **Thanksgiving**

Enjoy a wonderful thanksgiving meal and have a happy holiday!



*(Funding Opportunities continued from page 4)*

#### **Whale Tail Grants Program**

Funds educational projects to support and teach California's children and the general public to value and take responsibility for the health of the State's marine and coastal resources. Grant funds will be made available in the spring of 2002. Applicants must be a non-profit organization or govt. entity. For more info, visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov> or call (800) 262-7848.

#### **California State Coastal Conservancy**

Proposition 204 funding specifically allocated for LA River Projects that focus on habitat restoration and construction of public access facilities. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more information.

*(Clean Air Award continued from page 1)*

generation of environmental initiatives." In conferring the award, the SCAQMD noted that, although Councilman Ridley-Thomas represents the Eighth Council District of the City of Los Angeles, "the clean air policies he promotes have had a positive impact on the entire South Coast Air Basin."

Through the awards, SCAQMD recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to improved air quality in the South Coast in the past year. SCAQMD honored the winners at its annual Clean Air Awards luncheon at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, with Master of Ceremonies, Fritz Coleman. More than 300 people gathered to celebrate the winners' achievements.



## 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) 978-0888, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at (800) 439-4666. You can also visit our website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead) and click on the Environmental Information Center

### **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 Storm Drain Dumping**

*Depositos en los drenajes de desagües*

Stormwater Management

(800) 974-9794

### **Lead Poisoning**

*Veneno de 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

### **Smoking Violations**

*Infracciones de fumar*

Office of the City Attorney

(888) 333-0730

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