

An Environmental Affair

Volume 22, Issue 1

January 2002

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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ARB Adopts Environmental Justice Policies



California
Air Resources Board

On Thursday, December 13, 2001, the California Air Resources Board (ARB)

adopted a set of broad-ranging policies for its Environmental Justice programs that assure clean air for all Californians. The ARB policies follow California laws that define environmental justice as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." These laws were developed in response to concerns about the potential effects of exposure to pollutants and toxic compounds.

The ARB's new policies are some of the most comprehensive adopted by a state agency. The approved seven-point document establishes the framework for improving air quality and public health in all California communities. These policies will help advance this goal by making environmental justice considerations a standard practice in ARB activities.

Council member Nate Holden, Chair of the City Council's Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee, expressed to the ARB his support for policies to ensure that disparate impacts to low-income and minority groups are addressed. He emphasized that it is very important that adverse environmental impacts such as air pollution exposure be considered and avoided wherever possible since such exposure has been shown to disproportionately impact low-income and minority communities.

In this area, the City of Los Angeles has continued to develop policies and strategies that address environmental justice issues on a local level. For example, the City's General Plan Framework Element and Transportation Element, which regulate land use, include policies in support of environmental justice and public outreach. The City's Legislative Program on the Environment and guiding principles for air quality planning, which were adopted this year, support environmental justice in order to ensure a high quality of life for all our residents and businesses. Previously, the City hosted an Environmental Justice Workshop that brought together community groups, elected officials and public agencies and served to implement one of the Environmental Justice Initiatives of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

For more information on the City's continuing efforts to address environmental justice awareness and concerns, please refer to our EAD website at www.lacity.org/ead or call the Environmental Information Center at (213) 978-0888. For more information on the ARB's newly adopted Environmental Justice policies, refer to their website at www.arb.ca.gov or call (800) 363-7664.

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 or TDD (213) 978-0899, send an e-mail to: info@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at www.lacity.org/ead. You also can reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. 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

Celebrating the New Year With An Environmental Touch

The City's Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) and the TreePeople organization have provided information on methods of recycling our holiday tree!

The BOS advises cutting your tree and placing the pieces into the green yard trimming container. If you are unable to use the green containers, you also may recycle the tree by bringing it to designated locations throughout L.A. such as the L.A. Zoo, Rancho Cienega Recreation Center in Crenshaw, the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center in Rancho Park, and Chatsworth Park South in Chatsworth among many other locations between the weekend hours of 8 am - 4 pm as well as January 5, 6, 12, and 13.



If you are unable to drop-off your tree or place it in your green container, you may call on the services of the California Christmas Tree Recyclers (CCTR). The CCTR will come to your home, vacuum stray

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Ensuring Water Fun With Safety

For those water lovers who enjoy heading to the beaches to surf or quietly swim for the sake of relaxation this winter season, take precaution and adhere to set guidelines for aquatic safety. Beyond the standard aquatic safety measures, take note of water quality notices. The rainy season has begun after a long dry summer and the first rains tend to wash large quantities of stockpiled trash and other pollutants into the storm drain system.

Many people do not realize that the storm drain or gutter in their neighborhood leads directly to the ocean. There are plans to filter trash before it has a chance to flow to the Pacific, but at the moment there are only a few metal screens in place and they have a limited ability to intercept smaller items. Pollution in the storm drains can accumulate from a variety of sources: illegal dumping of motor oil and greases, runoff and other bacteriological waste from businesses and residences, and even litter thrown into the open flood channels. The highly concentrated pollution that exits the storm water drainage system into the ocean often causes high bacteriological counts in the water, which can lead to complications in health. Each year, the Watershed Protection Division (WPD) estimates that 40 tons of combined waste ends up on Los Angeles County beaches after a rain storm, with an estimated cleanup cost of approximately \$1.3 million.



The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) has undertaken many pollution control measures to address the water quality issue. Public outreach programs such as the "NO DUMPING. THIS DRAINS TO THE OCEAN" stencil on street catch basins hope to inform Angelenos about the storm drain/

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A Tree-rific Accomplishment

For the past 8 years, the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) has been aiding underserved communities throughout Los Angeles by planting and promoting the benefits of trees. The EAD has received multiple grant awards that have been used to contract with environmental organizations, such as the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) and the Hollywood Beautification Team (HBT), to promote a healthy urban forest for all of Los Angeles to enjoy.

Planting and growing trees results in a variety of environmental benefits. Trees offer shade to the urban landscape, which helps lower local temperature, decrease the flow of water runoff into the streets, and reduce air pollution by converting atmospheric carbon dioxide into oxygen that we then use to breathe.



Over the past 8 years, the EAD's successful application for federal, State, and regional grants has provided Los Angeles communities with approximately 19,000 trees. In the last three years alone, the EAD has been awarded grants to plant over 8,000 trees throughout the City. School routes, parks, the Los Angeles River, and major transportation routes all have been identified as important greening opportunities. EAD's grant programs currently underway are: Cool Communities Streetscape, Cool Green Communities, Planting Healthy School Routes, L.A. Green Corridors, and Tree-lined

Routes to the River. Many of these tree-planting plans build on existent environmental education programs currently underway at local schools. These projects also will provide useful habitat that links, rather than isolates, wildlife areas. For more information regarding tree grants, you can contact Amy Schulenberg, Grant Program Assistant at (213) 978-0862.

Gardens for Kids LA In Its Third Year

Sixty-three schools have participated in the Gardens for Kids LA (G4K-LA) program since its inception two years ago. Hundreds of students have been able to plant, care for, study, and enjoy the fruits of their gardens and labors.

Through the G4K-LA program, everything from vegetables and herbs to native plants can be planted and may occasionally be highlighted with a theme-bearing environment (colors of the rainbow, letters of the alphabet, etc.). Raised garden beds and high quality supplies - soils, tools, seeds - are provided to the schools. The program is organized by the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) through City funding designated by the Mayor and City Council.

Not only do the gardens serve to educate students about horticulture and science, allowing them to "learn by doing," but they also emphasize recycling. The lumber from which the garden beds are made is composed of recycled plastic containers, demonstrating the full circle of resource utilization to students.



EAD's other partners in this program are the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), Los Angeles Unified School District, University of California Cooperative Extension - Common Ground Gardening Angels Program, California Integrated Waste Management Board, Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership, and California Department of Education - Nutrition and Training Section.

EAD is now preparing the participating schools list for G4K-LA's third year. A few openings still remain, so if you know of any schools that might be interested in participating this year, please ask them to contact Garen Yegparian, EAD's G4K-LA Program Assistant at (213) 978-0860 as soon as possible so that they may be considered.

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

**Toyota Tapestry Grant**

The grant program is awarding 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20 additional mini-grants of \$2,500 each for grades K-12 science teachers. The grants will be awarded in three categories: Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Applications, and Literacy and Science Education. The projects should demonstrate creativity, visionary quality, and a novel way of presenting science. The application deadline is January 17, 2002. For more information, visit the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) website at <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/index.htm> or call (800) 807-9852.

Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Mini-grants Program

Starting in January 2002, The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project will begin its sixth run of its PIE Program, offering communities and agencies throughout LA County seed money to start-up projects focusing on the Bay, its watershed, and its resources. For more info, contact Stephanie Katsouleas at (213) 576-6641, or email to smbrp@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov, or visit the SMBRP website at <http://www.smbay.org>.

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: http://www.nfwf.org/programs/rfp_2002.html.

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 website 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 and construction of public access facilities. 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 achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the website 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 information.

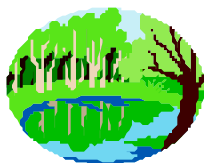
Jobs Through Recycling

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 information.

JANUARY 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, 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. 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.

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. "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, 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. Please call the Bureau of Sanitation: (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: (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 or call: (323) 876-0202.

THIS MONTH:**January 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE EAD****January 1-6
Last Chance to See the
Stars for 2002!**


The Griffith Observatory (GO) will be closed to the public at 10 pm on the 6th for a three-year renovation project. While there is still some time left, come and visit the Observatory where you will be able to view attractions such as the Astronomers Monument which honors six of the greatest astronomers of all time; exhibits that feature models which include the Moon Globe, the Hubble Space Telescope, paintings; the triple-beam solar telescope and Zeiss Refracting Telescope; plus much more! There is no charge for admission to the Hall of Science, the astronomy museum, or to the telescope. For more info call the GO at (323) 664-1191 or visit <http://www.griffithobs.org/>.


**January 2, 4
Winter Seafari**


Look at the impact of winter storms and discover the changes along the winter seashore during the two-day course at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA). Sign up for one or both sessions as each day is different and learn about migratory animals, create projects and




more. There is a fee of \$26 (\$23 FRIENDS) for grades K-6 and \$15 (\$13 FRIENDS) for preK. Time of activities depends on your child's grade level. For more info and times, call CMA education staff at (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

January 9**New Bird Walk**

Last year, 149 species of birds were observed at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. The year is anew, but the winter resident birds may still be feeding on remaining fields of sunflowers and other dying annuals. With the arrival of rain, new vegetation has arisen, attracting many new feeders. Experienced birder, Bob Shanman will lead the free walk beginning at 8 am. For more information, contact Bob at (310) 326-2473 or the MMP at (310) 326-2774



Discovery Lab

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 lab dates are on January 12th, 16th, 23rd, 30th from 1-3 pm and on the 20th from 2-4 pm. For more info, visit CMA's site at <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.


January 12**Habitat Restoration Days**

View many splendid native wildflowers, shrubs and trees at the Madrona Marsh Preserve (MMP) that were once here 200

years ago and have now been restored as part of a 35 acres upland back dune system restoration project. Everyone is invited to participate by planting, weeding, collecting and growing seeds. The event begins at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. For more information, contact the MMP (310) 326-2774.


Weekend Tidepool Walk

Take a tour of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge conducted by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) Education Staff. An informative slide show in the John M. Liguin Auditorium will be presented, followed by a naturalist-led ramble on the rocks. Outdoor clothing and sneakers are advised. There is a \$1 fee and reservations are required for groups. The event will be from 2-3:30 pm. Another tour will also be led on the 27th from 2-3:30 pm. For more info, contact CMA staff at (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

January 13**Winter Water Fowl**

For all the bird lovers out there, come see some of Madrona Marsh Preserve's (MMP) wetland birds. A slide show presenting birds will be given by Lorna Squires followed by an onsite tour with experienced birder David Moody who will share his broad knowledge and experiences of the Preserve's birds. There is a \$5 fee per person or \$10 per family, and reservations are required. To reserve, call MMP (310) 618-2720; for more information, contact the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.



January 16

Eco-Hikes

Learn about the ecology of the Madrona Marsh Preserve and discover how living organisms interact within their habitat. The hike runs from 3:40 – 4:30 pm. For more info, contact Shirley Turner at (310) 326-3840.



January 17

A Visual Treat

The Whittier Area Audubon Society invites you to view "Adventures and Misadventures as an Earthwatch Volunteer," an audio-visual program by Muriel Horacek. Some of her adventures include tracking macaws in

Boliva and
echidnas on
Kangaroo
Island,



monitoring nesting leatherback turtles in Costa Rica and the Virgin Islands, feeding and relocating cheetahs in Namibia, and much more! The meeting is free and will begin at 7:30 pm. For more info, contact Jean Beaton (Program chair) at (562) 869-6545, or visit their site at www.whittieraudubon.org.

January 23

Rio L.A.

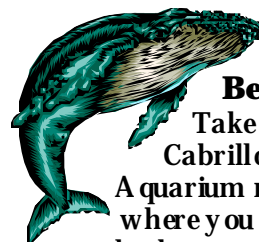
Ward-winning television commentator and L.A. Times columnist Pat Morrison will be giving a presentation of her new book "Rio L.A.: Tales from the Los Angeles River," including an opportunity for book signing at the L.A. Zoo. The event will begin at 7 pm. There is a \$10 fee that can be credited toward the purchase of the book. For reservations, please



call (323) 644-4211 x0. For more information, visit <http://www.lazoo.org>, or call (323) 644-6400.

January 26

L.A. Harbor Above and Below



Take a ride aboard a Cabrillo Marine

Aquarium research vessel where you will be able to net plankton, trawl the bottom, and look for whales, sea lions, and sea birds. The three-hour hands-on floating lab experience from 9 am - 12 pm is open to all, with children under the age of 10 free with a paid adult. There is a fee of \$27 (\$25 for FRIENDS) and pre-registration is required. For info, call the Education Dept. at (310) 548-7562 x5007, or visit CMA's website at <http://www.cabrilloaq.org/science.htm>.

"Celebrating the New Year With an Environmental Touch" (Continued from page 2)

pine needles, and remove your tree, which will eventually be mulched and used for local planting. The CCTR charges a fee that starts at \$10, with price increases varying accordingly to the size of your tree and the type of service requested.

During this holiday season, many other opportunities are available where you as an individual can participate and improve the environment by helping to conserve our natural resources. Now and throughout the year, make sure to recycle unwanted greeting cards, beverage containers, and wrapping paper. You also can conserve energy by limiting home lighting decorations to certain hours. For more information on BOS designated tree recycling areas, visit their website at <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/tree-recycle.htm> or call them at (800) 587-3356. For information regarding the CCTR recycling pickup service, visit TreePeople's website at <http://www.treepeople.org/HolidayTreeTips.htm> or call at (818) 215-4070.

"Ensuring Water Fun With Safety" (Continued from page 2)

ocean connection. Management practices such as cleaning the catch basins before the rainy season, installation of trash collection devices, and storm water diversion to treatment during non-flood periods help alleviate the water pollution problem. The DPW is doing its part to improve water quality by removing 80,000 lbs of liquid waste and 88,000 lbs of solid waste before it can enter the ocean, cracking down on illegal dumping, and educating the public. You can help by refraining from dumping liquids and solid waste in the street, throwing your trash in a receptacle instead of the street, and informing a friend that the storm drain flows straight to the ocean.

For more information on storm water pollution and what you can do to prevent it, visit the WPD website at <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/swmd/index.htm> or call their hotline at (800) 974-9794.



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 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 articulos 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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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!!