

An Environmental Affair

Volume 22, Issue 5

May 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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Former Soviet President Gorbachev Visits Los Angeles to Discuss Environmental Issues



Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Green Cross International

Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev was in Los Angeles on March 15, 2002 to discuss with local leaders a variety of environmental issues, specifically the importance of addressing global climate change. During his visit, Gorbachev, Founder and President of Green Cross International, met with Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn and addressed attendees of the Global Green USA's Fifth Annual

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School Indoor Environments Need You!



May is Clean Air Month

If outdoor air pollution concerns you, the potential for pollution indoors should surely give you pause. Levels of many contaminants can be 2-5 times (even a hundred times) higher indoors than out. Since we spend most of our time indoors (upwards of 90%!), contaminants that can accumulate inside buildings such as schools, can be as important to our health as ambient air pollution.

Our schools are unique, densely occupied, indoor environments. We unknowingly bring pollutants into schools, and our activities help disseminate them. Years of under-funding have left multiple schools in a state of deterioration, resulting in buildings with poor ventilation and moldy interiors. Children are more vulnerable to pollution than adults, increasing the likelihood of acquiring diseases such as Asthma (now considered an epidemic) due to the extensive amount of time spent within these poorly ventilated buildings.

The good news is that there's a voluntary program -- endorsed by the LAUSD Board of Education -- which can help our schools make the most of their facilities and resources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools Action Kit helps school and district staff recognize the root causes of poor indoor air quality, and facilitates the prevention, investigation and correction of IAQ problems. The EPA has dis-

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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: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at

<http://www.lacity.org/ead>.

TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893.

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PLEASE POST

EAD's General Manager Celebrates 15 Years of City Service



Dee Allen accepting an award from Gary Gero for her 15 years of service to the City of L.A.

Detrich ("Dee") Allen, General Manager of the Environmental Affairs Department, recently received her 15 Year pin from the City at a presentation before the entire staff of the department. Gary Gero, EAD's Executive Officer, presented her with the pin saying, "Dee demonstrates what can be achieved through a combination of intelligence, hard work, and charm." Ms. Allen started her City career at the Harbor Department and has worked at the EAD since its creation in 1990. She started at EAD as a supervisor in the Air Quality Division and subsequently served as the Director of Air Quality and as the Department's Assistant General Manager before being named as General Manager in February 2000.

(School Indoor Environments Need You! Continued from page 1)

covered that simple education goes a long way. When everyone's eyes are opened to this issue, many problems are quickly recognized and corrected.

The Tools for Schools program can be viewed and downloaded from the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq>, or ordered (free to schools) by calling the EPA Indoor Air Quality Clearinghouse at (800) 438-4318. To find out what you can do to help our schools use this program to improve the air our children breathe helping them perform to their potential, contact EPA's Shelly Rosenblum at (415) 947-4193, or Susana Fernandez-Jacomel at the American Lung Association of LA County, (323) 935-5864, or Gary Pons, LAUSD / Health & Safety, at (213) 743-5086 x 596.

Happy Retirement Neda Barnes!!!

On May 22, 2000, the Department of General Services (DGS), Mail Services Division (MSD) was enhanced with newly promoted Principal Clerk Neda Barnes. Neda was assigned to manage and operate the recent developed Bar Code Unit. Neda's mission was to provide each City department with the lowest United States postage rates by imprinting a barcode on City bulk mailings. Neda's personality, professionalism and commitment to serve created a list of monthly clients that resulted in a fiscal year-end saving of \$631,926.

In nearly thirty years of service, Neda has seen the City transform from using the old Mimeograph and Wang machines, elevator operators that called out your desired floor and the ground-breaking of City Hall East to Xerox, Dell Computers, and a refurbished City Hall. Neda was born and raised in Watts and grew up directly across the street from the historic Watts Tower. Little did Neda know that two years prior to her retirement, she would be printing announcements and invitations for residents and officials to come and visit a tower of culture and history that she experienced first-hand.

We at the Environmental Affairs Department will miss Neda's dedication and superb performance in the distribution of the EAD's monthly newsletter. Many thanks to Neda for her efforts and best wishes for a happy retirement.

EAD Welcomes New Project Coordinators

Our Citywide tree-planting projects have been a great success. To help along the greening projects, the EAD has hired two new Urban Forestry Grant Project Coordinators: Amy Schulenberg and Lynne Siegel-Chandler. Amy has been promoted from our Student Professional Worker Position here at the EAD. This spring, Amy will be graduating from Cal Poly Pomona with a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture. She is joined by Lynne, who comes to us from a non-profit background in Oregon and has a California Teaching Credential in English. Amy and Lynne are currently involved in the implementation of grant-funded projects for the Water and Natural Resources Division and the ambitious tree-planting efforts throughout Los Angeles.

~~May is National Bike Month~~ Celebrate Bike to Work Week on May 13-17

For at least one week this month, the air in Los Angeles could seem a little cleaner and the roadways less congested. That is the goal, at least for the week of May 13 -17, when Los Angeles and other cities participate in the 8th Annual California Bike Commute Week. It is expected that over 15,000 commuters will garage their vehicles and pedal their way into work, doing a favor not only for the air around them, but also their own physical health.



California Bike Commute Week is comprised of several regional Bike to Work Day events throughout California and is held in conjunction with National Bike Month and the American Lung Association's Clean Air Month. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) sponsors Los Angeles' Bike to Work Week and, as an incentive to recruit participants, is offering bicyclists free rides on Metro Buses

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EAD Cyclists



EAD employees are enjoying the benefits of bicycling as a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to driving to work. Wayne Tsuda, Director of Materials and Waste Resources Management, bikes to work one day each week during the spring and summer. On his 12-mile commute from Culver City to downtown Los Angeles, Wayne utilizes the Venice Bikeway as well as city streets. Wayne cites exercise and stress reduction as the main benefits of biking to work.

Student Professional Worker Lisa Wilkinson has commuted to downtown Los Angeles from Long Beach using a combination of methods including her bicycle and public transit. Lisa has utilized the Long Beach Bike Trail as a convenient and scenic way to travel to the Long Beach Bike Station. The bike trail hugs the coast and Lisa enthusiastically observed that she could often see dolphins frolicking just off shore, making her morning ride extra enjoyable. Lisa would then store her bike for the day and take the Metro Rail Blue Line to travel to downtown. As a student, Lisa also regularly uses her bike to travel to and from her college campus, Cal State Long Beach. Join Wayne and Lisa by participating in California's 8th Annual Bike Commute Week, May 13-17!

Environmentally Preferred Product Tech Sheet



A wide variety of chemical products are used in custodial operations for floor care, rest-room cleaning and maintenance, and general cleaning. Likewise, fleet maintenance mechanics use a variety of chemical products, some of which may be harmful to the environment. Some of the products used in both operations may contain chemicals with restrictions on their use placed by the California Air Resources Board.

To help custodial and fleet maintenance operators select alternative products for use in their jobs, the Hazardous and Toxic Materials (HTM) Office has developed technical sheets that provides a general overview of environmentally preferable products, general information on associated health and safety considerations, common chemicals of concern, and potential substitute products. Environmentally preferable products mentioned in the technical sheets for custodians include disinfectants, floor cleaners, furniture polish, general purpose cleaners, glass cleaners, metal polish, and toilet bowl cleaners. For fleet operations, brake cleaners, carburetor/choke cleaners, contact cleaners, adhesives, general lubricants, and gasket removers are listed. The technical sheets will be available in May. To request a copy, please call the HTM Office at 213-978-0891, or email your request to htmo@mailbox.lacity.org.

\$ \$ \$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$

(Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for other current grant opportunities.)



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 information.

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 relationship to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more information.

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 information.

California Community Foundation Grants

This grant supports the maintenance and beautification of parks and recreation areas, and is intended for nonprofit organizations located within and/or primarily serving residents of L.A. County. Grants range from \$30,000 to \$170,000. Call (213) 413-4130 or visit <http://www.calfund.org> for more information.

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 U.S. 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 that contribute to economic development and jobs creation. Call Julia Wolfe with the EPA Waste Management Division at (415) 744-2131 for more information.

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Provides loans to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call EPA's Drinking Water Office: (415) 744-1852 for more information.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation supports projects that facilitate progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems. Non-profits only (usually with budgets of less than \$250,000). Small grants up to \$1000 and Full grants up to \$15,000 are available. The deadline is July 1 & November 1. For more information call (802) 846-1500 or visit <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/>.

Home Depot — Community Grant Program

Provides assistance to non-profits that direct efforts toward forestry, ecology, green building design, clean-up, recycling, and lead poisoning prevention. This grant is for non-profits only. There are no specific award amounts. Contact your local Home Depot store manager for more details or visit <http://www.homedepot.com>.

Innovations in American Government Award,

2002 Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government is currently accepting applications for its 2002 awards competition. Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial agencies demonstrating programs that involve interagency collaboration that highlight the creativity of frontline employees are particularly encouraged to apply. The deadline for the paper application is 5 pm EST on **May 3, 2002** and 8 pm EST on **May 17, 2002** for the online application. For more information, visit <http://www.innovations.harvard.edu>, email innovations@harvard.edu, or call (617) 495-0557.

Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

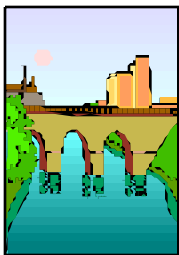
This grant provides seed money to stimulate greenway planning and design through developing new action-oriented greenway projects. Local, regional or statewide non-profit organizations are eligible. Public agencies are also eligible. This grant provides up to \$2500. The processing time begins March 1st and the deadline is June 1st. For more information call (703) 526-6300 or visit <http://www.conservaionfund.org>.

If your organization has benefited from any of the grants advertised in this newsletter, please let us know by writing a success story to our department via snail mail or email. Thank you.

MAY 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.

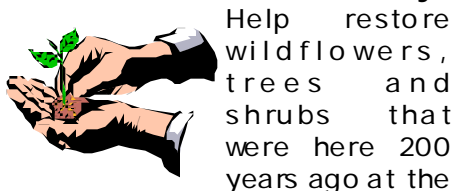
Japanese Garden Tours

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 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) 32MARSH.



The EAD website, located at <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. 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) 32MARSH.

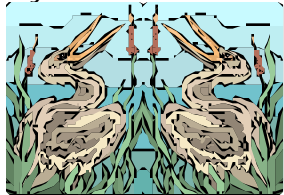


Baldwin Hills Hikes

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:

May is Wetlands Month!


La GRAN Limpieza
May 3-4

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) is conducting its 13th Annual Great Los Angeles River Clean Up. The clean up will take place at 9 sites along the L.A. River from 9 am to Noon. Activities will include a free T-shirt giveaway for the first 100 participants at each site and a scavenger hunt. For more information contact Clean Up coordinator, Jill Hill, at (562) 591-5980 or visit <http://www.folar.org>.

May 12

Friends of the Madrona Marsh is presenting raptors as the theme for its Second Sunday Science Day. Come learn the what, when, why, and where of raptors from one of the Friend's science teachers. This event begins at 2 pm. For more information call (310) 326-2774.

**May 13****Volunteer Orientation**

is open to all those interested in learning about Heal the Bay and how to get involved! This event will take



place from 7 pm to 8 pm at the Heal the Bay Office located at 3220 Nebraska Ave. in Santa Monica. To participate, **RSVP by completing** the online RSVP form at <http://www.healthebay.org> or call (800) HEAL BAY, x145.

May 13-17

8th Annual California Bike Commute 2002 is a project of the California Bicycle Coalition, a non-profit organization that advocates increased bicycle use, access, safety, and education, by promoting the



bicycle as an everyday means of transportation and recreation. For participating and general information, call (800) 286-6883 (#3) or visit <http://www.bikelink.com/commuting.htm>.

May 17-18**Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Meeting in Los Angeles.**

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that



community concerns and priorities are incorporated into the development, adoption, and implementation of a Cal/EPA agency-wide environmental justice strategy. Meet at The Davidson Conference Center located on 3415 S. Figueroa St. in Los Angeles at the USC campus from 1 pm - 6 pm on Friday, May 17 and 9 am-5:30 pm on Saturday, May 18. For more information, please call Malinda Y. Hall at (916) 445-9480, email EnvJust@calepa.ca.gov, or visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/>.

May 18**Daniel Webster Environmental Education Garden**

in West L.A. was established to teach children growing up in an urban area about the environment. Help create new plots, remove weeds and brush, and add new plants. Forty volunteers are needed to help complete the task from 9:30 am—1:00 pm. For more information, contact Cindy Knerr at (818) 997-8424.

**May 18-19****Now You See Me, Now You Don't**

Uncover the secrets of camouflage where stripes, spots, and patterns create the illusion of invisibility. Find out who uses their crazy coverings to eat or keep from being eaten from 11 am or 1 pm at the Zoo. For more information, please call the Zoo at (323) 644-6400 or visit www.lazoo.org.

May 19**2nd Annual Los Angeles River Ride**

from 7 am to 6 pm. The



event raises public awareness of the Los Angeles River and the Bike Coalition's efforts to make all of L.A. County a safe and enjoyable place to bicycle. Riders can register online for Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's (LACBC) major event to promote and get the L.A. River Bikeway built! For more information, contact LACBC by email at rpm@labikecoalition.org, call (213) 629-2142, or visit <http://www.labikecoalition.org>.

May 19

Tidepool Wonder at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Two tidepool walks to the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge will be offered in May. There

will be a slide show preceding the walk, then participants will have an opportunity to identify and observe diverse marine life such as sea urchins, sea hares, hermit crabs, and more. This event costs \$1. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

June 2

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's 31st Anniversary 2002 Annual Whale Fiesta Come enjoy a

fun-filled day for the entire family at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Whale experts will present whale lectures and slideshows. Special activities will include face painting, arts & crafts, contests, and more. This event is free to the public and will be held from 10 am to 5 pm. For more information call (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

June 8

L.A. Works Day

Join thousands of community volunteers at the Staples Center at 8 am, and then fan out through greater Downtown L.A. to repaint fire stations, remove graffiti, paint murals, plant trees, and more. For more information, call (323) 224-6510 or visit <http://www.la-volunteer.org>.

(Former Soviet President Gorbachev Visits... continued from page 1)

Sustainability Symposium on the importance of acknowledging global climate change. Global Green USA, the U.S. affiliate of Green Cross International, is the only national environmental group headquartered in the greater Los Angeles area.

During the symposium, Mayor Hahn described to Gorbachev his environmental technology initiative and discussed sustainable building and the Green LA programs of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). After the meeting, Mayor Hahn said, "We know that Los Angeles has taken important steps, but perhaps more can be done. I enjoyed discussing some options with Global Green to provide incentives for energy efficiency and greening our city."

Attending the sold-out Sustainability Symposium were several city officials, including representatives from the Mayor's Office, City Council offices, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), and LADWP. Speakers at the symposium discussed the role of businesses, local and state governments, and non-profit organizations in confronting the issue of global climate change. Last year, Los Angeles adopted a far-reaching climate change plan that was developed by EAD in partnership with the LADWP and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. For more information regarding Green Cross International visit, <http://www.greencrossinternational.net>.

(Celebrate Bike to Work Week continued from page 3)

and Metro Rail Trains (not MetroLink) on Bike to Work Day on May 16. Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge will be riding his bike to work on Bike to Work Day.

During this year's Bike to Work Week, the City will celebrate the success of the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program that provided 115 bicycles to patrol officers in the LAPD, the Recreation and Parks Department, the LA Department of Transportation, and the Harbor Department this past year. This program, now with over 300 bikes, aims to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by patrol cars, thus reducing motor vehicle emissions and improving air quality.

On the morning of Monday, May 13, the City will host a Bike to Work Week kick-off event on the steps of City Hall with speakers, demonstrations, and activities to showcase the benefits of the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program and to thank and acknowledge those entities that have helped make the program a success. Grab *your* bike and meet us there to rally support and join in the fun.

For more information about local Bike to Work Week events and incentives, please contact Nadia Dale at 213-978-0894 or at ndale@mailbox.lacity.org.



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 <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 desagués

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

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar

Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

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