An Environmental Affair

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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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Johannesburg World Summit



From August 26 through September 4, 2002, world leaders met in Johannesburg, South Africa for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Ten years ago in Rio, Brazil, a sustainable development plan called "Agenda 21" was drafted and adopted by the international community. Today, the international community

has come together again, to improve upon Agenda 21 and to create opportunities for its implementation.

Delegates from more than 190 nations assembled at the world meeting to address Summit topics that included improving access to clean water and basic sanitation for the world's poorest countries, and how to encourage sustainable building development. Discussion of these issues led to commitments by governments, inter-governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry for expanding access to clean water and sanitation to the 1.1 billion people who presently lack these resources, increasing the use of solar and wind power to diversify energy sources, improving agricultural yields, managing toxic chemicals and eradicating lead based paints and gasoline, and protecting biodiversity and improving ecosystem management.

The International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) hosted a Local Government Session, organizing a four-day conference to address the specific role of cities in implementing sustainable development. The forum highlighted the ability of local government to achieve improvements in

(Continued on page 7)

New Alternative Vehicles "Sweep" Into Town

As part of the City's efforts to comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Fleet Rules and City Council's Clean Fuel Policy, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) Commercial Vehicle Section is introducing three new Elgin Eagle Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) heavy-duty street sweepers into its fleet (picture to right).



A sweeper powered by compressed natural gas.

The Elgin Eagle is a four-wheel mechanical (broom) sweeper that is PM-10 certified (able to collect particulate matter that is 10 microns and smaller). The Eagle is powered by CNG and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). CNG and LPG are

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Walk to School Day 2002

On October 2nd, EAD celebrated Walk to School Day by participating in events at two local elementary schools, Noble Avenue School and Hazeltine Avenue School.

Noble Elementary School in North Hills had hundreds of kids, parents, and community members participate in a "walking school bus" from Sepulveda Park to the nearby school. Assemblyman Tony Cardenas and Debbie Leidner, the Local District Superintendent, led the group. Once at the school, parents were treated to student performances about healthy eating. Breakfast was offered alongside exhibits featuring information about safety and nutrition. The event also featured a LAFD fire truck and a LAPD patrol car for students to examine, face painting, and crafts focusing on fruits and vegetables. A few classes planted seedlings in the new garden beds.

Hazeltine Elementary School in Van Nuys had approximately 400 children and their families start their day the healthy way with some light exercise at a local park. From the park, Olympic decathlete Rafer Johnson led the walk to the school along with L.A. City Councilperson Wendy Greuel, a representative from the Mayor's office and Director of Elementary Schools John Hall from LAUSD Local District C. Activities at Hazeltine Elementary

focused on the importance of healthy eating, physical activity, and safety. Exhibits by the American Cancer Society, U.C. Cooperative Extension 5-A-Day Power Play and the Environmental Affairs Department were available to the students. The LAPD also brought a patrol car for the children to climb through.

As part of its Gardens for Kids L.A. program, EAD provided each school with raised garden beds and all the plants and materials needed to start their gardens. EAD also planted street trees along the Walk to School Day routes and in surrounding neighborhoods as part of its "Planting Healthy School Routes" project. This grant-funded project will plant a total of 1,000 trees along streets used by students to walk or bike to school. The new trees will improve air quality through the removal of pollutants, provide shade and reduce local temperatures as well as create more attractive avenues for recreation. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps employs local young adults to provide the labor for both of the Gardens for Kids L.A. and Planting Healthy School Routes programs.

Walk to School Day is an international event designed to promote better health through exercise and proper nutrition. EAD is pleased to be involved and to add an environmental aspect to the events by planting gardens and trees at each of the schools.

(Alternative Vehicles...continued from page 1)

alternative fuels that are economical, abundant in supply and produce approximately 10% of the pollutants normally emitted by traditional gasoline or diesel engines. The Mobile Source Emission Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) grant program and the City's Mobile Source Trust Fund funded this project.

The City is committed to improving air quality and recognizes that the deployment of alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicles is critical to achieving air quality goals. Cleaner vehicles using alternative fuels such as CNG, LPG or propane, methanol, electricity, or fuel cells reduce exhaust emissions from on-road vehicles and thereby reduce public exposure to toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants.

The BOSS operates a fleet of 160 street sweepers, each with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 lbs. These units have a 6-year life span. Approximately 27 units need to be purchased every year for 6 years in order to fully replace all the diesel-powered units with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered units. Both Athey-Mobile and Elgin are currently developing several natural gas powered products intended to fill the needs of all the municipal fleets of the City of Los Angeles.

2003 Air Quality Management Plan

This fall, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is expected to release its 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The SCAQMD is the agency principally responsible for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast Air Basin, an area which includes the City of Los Angeles. The AQMP is the plan of action for meeting federal ambient air quality standards, and it must be revised regularly.



This ensures that the requirements keep up with current technologies and also that SCAQMD continue developing new ways to reduce air pollution in the Los Angeles area. The 2003 AQMP will be an update to the 1999 AQMP and will include new pollution reduction measures.

The SCAQMD will comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that details potential environmental impacts resulting from the AQMP. The EIR describes environmental factors that could be impacted by the 2003 AQMP and possible mitigation measures, if necessary.

The AQMP and CEQA processes require public comment periods, so there are opportunities to voice your views about environmental protection and air quality in Los Angeles. To learn more about the plan, contact the SCAQMD at (909) 396-2000. For further information about the AQMP, please visit the AQMD's website at http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp.

New Strategies for Old Problems

In the November 2001 (v.21, no.11) issue of *An Environmental Affair*, an article entitled "There's Nothing Delicious About Eating Tainted Fish" highlighted the adverse health effects of consuming aquatic life off the Palos Verdes shelf in Santa Monica Bay and San Pedro contaminated with DichoroDiphenylTricholoroethane, commonly known as DDT. As recently reported in the Los Angeles Times, experimental capping efforts by the EPA have proven beneficial in mitigating the negative environmental impacts of DDT.

The issue of contamination stems from the illegal wastewater disposal of approximately 1,800 tons of DDT into the City's sewer system by the Montrose Chemical Corporation nearly half-a-century ago. In conjunction, several other industries discharged toxic chemicals aside from DDT that included Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB). Eventually about a 100 metric tons of contaminants settled on approximately 17 square miles of ocean floor off Palos Verdes, and in 1996 was designated a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The DDT continues to bioaccumulate in marine plankton and animals such as the white croaker that are a food source for large birds. DDT was banned in 1972 for its detrimental effect on the bird communities; specifically DDT would deplete an egg's shell of calcium, thinning the shell and causing cracking under the weight of the parental bird.

The U.S. EPA has conducted experiments that involved capping the deposit of DDT with a layer of silt, which generated positive results demonstrating feasibility on a technical standpoint. A formal proposal will be made in mid-2003 to entomb about three miles of ocean floor that contains the highest concentration of DDT with clean sediment about one to one and one-half feet thick. Their studies show that the three-mile region is relatively flat and is suitable to hold the silt effectively.

Several concerns have surfaced regarding the impacts associated with the proposed mitigation, including the effect on marine life currently inhabiting the three-mile stretch and how the surrounding aquatic community will react to the creation of a temporary oceanic desert.

Proponents reaffirm their support by arguing that the sediment process will reduce

the ecological risks posed by DDT. Experts believe that the cap of silt may be the only feasible means of protecting the environment from DDT, as dredging up the contaminants could create more problems than it would solve. For additional information, visit the EPA's website www.epa.gov/region09/features/pvshelf/.

\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$ Visit http://www.lacity.org/ead for more grant opportunities.

California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail resources. License Plate Grants fund up to \$50,000 to schools, non-profit organizations, and government entities supporting programs that foster an appreciation of coast, marine life, or inland watersheds. The deadline is November 15, 2002. For more information, visit www.coastforyou.org or call (800) COAST4U.

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) offers a total of \$10 million each year to government agencies and non-profits that work to lessen the environmental impacts caused by new or modified state transportation facilities. Grants are awarded in three areas: Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry, Resource Lands, and Roadside Recreational. Applications for the 2003-2004 grant cycle are due November 22, 2002. For more information call (916) 653-5656 or visit www.resources.ca.gov/eem.

The CA **Department of Conservation** is currently accepting applications for its Beverage Container Recycling grant. A total of \$1,000,000 in funds are available to promote the recycling of beverage containers and anyone may apply. Applications are due **November 25, 2002** and guidelines can be viewed at www.consrv.ca. gov/DOR/grants.

The CA **Department of Water Resources** (DWR) is accepting applications for funding under the Urban Water Conservation Program. Grants will be made to local public agencies and incorporated mutual water companies to finance feasible, cost effective urban water conservation projects to improve water use efficiency. Applications are due **December 3, 2002**. Visit www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/ or contact Marsha Prillwitz at (916) 651-9674.

National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats Wild Seed Fund mini-grants assist schools in the initial phases of a Schoolyard Habitats project. To be eligible, schools must be planning to create or restore wildlife habitat on their school grounds and certify their Schoolyard Habitats site with the NWF by March 15, 2004. Applications are due January 15, 2003. For more information visit www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats or contact Laura Wayne at (703) 438-6582.

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to promote more efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of land and natural

resources. Please visit www.surdna.org for application information or call (212) 557-0010.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone Revolving Loan Program provides direct loans to eligible businesses that use post-consumer or secondary waste materials to manufacture new products or that reduce the waste resulting from the manufacture of a product. For more information call (916) 341-6530 or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants.

Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths interested in solving environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Please visit www.captainplanetfdn.org for details and an application.

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. For more information contact your local Home Depot store manager or visit www.homedepot.com and search for "community involvement."

Reuse Assistance Grants Program is developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help local public agencies promote reuse activities at the local public agency level. All local public agencies in California are eligible to apply. For more information, call Sarah Weimer at (916) 341-6613 or email sweimer@ciwmb.ca.gov.

The California Community Foundation accepts grants year-round for projects that seek to revitalize low-income neighborhoods. Funds will support the development, rehabilitation and beautification of affordable housing and living areas, and will support the establishment or maintenance of safe recreation areas and parks, including community gardens. Please visit www. calfund.org or call (213) 413-4130.

The **Pew Charitable Trusts** Environment Program funds non-profit organizations to promote policies and practices that protect the global atmosphere and preserve healthy forest and marine ecosystems. Visit www.pewtrusts.com/grants/ or call (215) 575-9050.

OCTOBER 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 information. visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (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 information to or make reservations 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 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (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. For more information on this event or events for youth, please 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 science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloag.org.

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

Topics workshops year-round. covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www. smartgardening.com. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

Aprigos de Bolsa Chica offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each Visitors who month. arrive between 9 and

10:30 am will be led on a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour guides discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For information call (714) 840-1575 or visit www. amigosdebolsachica.org.

The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure vour 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.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Discover



another side of the peninsula. Learn about the history of this former channel island. the

wildlife, and plants that live in the canyons and undeveloped areas, and the unique geology of this special Peninsula. Many are family oriented and suitable for children. All walks are free and reservations are not required. The next walk will be held **November 12**. For more information, call (310) 541-7613 or visit www.pvplc.org/.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area. For more information call (323) 876-0202 or visit www.LAAudubon.org.

Augustus F.



Hawkins Natural Park offers youth activities including day-long trips to

destinations like Point Mugu. Franklin Canyon and Malibu Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please call (323) 585-3205.

THIS MONTH:

Saturday, November 2 The Lake Balboa Lifeguard Station will be holding a Kayak Fitness Orientation Session from 9 am-11 am. Come learn a new, and fun, form of fitness. A fee of \$15 is required, equipment will be provided. Contact the Lifequard Station at 818-756-9743 for further information.



Taiko Drummers are ready to thrill you with their amazing music at the Under the Oaks Theater at Descanso

Gardens. The performance will be held at 1 pm and is free with paid admission. Call (818) 949-4200 for information.

Thursday, November 7 Attention Teachers! vour students on a virtual field trip right in their own classroom with the Bureau of Land Management. Enjoy this free, 1 satellite broadcast hour entitled, "Share the Adventure: Exploring Fire Science." can learn about fire science and fire management and see the effects of wildfires. Fire experts will be available by phone for kids questions. Visit www.blm. gov/education/ and click on the 'Teachers' link for more information.

Saturday, November 9 **Ballona Wetlands**

Land Trust On the second Saturday of each month from 10AM to 2PM, volunteers are needed to help remove nonnative plants and trash, and they are then invited to go on guided eco-tours offered by local biologists and ecologists. Refreshments and free raffle prizes are also available. Please

bring gloves, water, a hat, and wear sun screen. Call (310) 264-9468 for information.

Saturday, November 9



Native American Craft Fair Come to the Sooky Goldman Nature Center and spend the afternoon making, painting, and

with Native Americanplaying inspired crafts made from natural materials. For more information call (310) 858-7272 x 131.

Sat. & Sun., November 9-10 The 12th Annual Intertribal Marketplace event, sponsored by the Southwest Museum, will feature artists, music, traditional dances and food, along with a Children's Craft Village. admission is \$8, students and seniors \$6 and children under 6 get in free. Call (323) 221-2164 x236 for additional information.

Saturday, November 16



Oak Care Day lend a hand during at Malibu Creek State Park. Hundreds of these majestic trees need a

little TLC from you. Event will begin at 9 am and is being sponsored by the Mountains Restoration Trust. Call (818) 346-9675 x12 to reserve your spot.

Wednesday, November 20 Babes in the Woods touch, feel and smell walk will be held at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center for babes up to age 3 and their parents. The hour long adventure will begin at 10 am. No reservations required, call (310) 858-7272 x 131.

Sun Vallev Watershed Stakeholder Townhall Meeting will take place at the Sun Valley Middle School, located

on 7330 Bakman Ave. from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Come learn about upcoming proposals and help implement short-term solutions to flood-related problems. For more information, contact Vik Bapna at (626) 458-4363.

Sat. & Sun., November 22-24



Fall and Winter **Camp 2002** is a Department Recreation and Parks

program that offers weekend camping experiences - one for boys and one for girls. Each camp will have tons of fun activities to choose from. There is a cost ranging from \$60 to \$120. For more information call (323) 664-0571 for boys or (323) 467-7193 for girls.

Sunday, November 24 The Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society will be holding a familyoriented bird walk at Malibu Lagoon. Adults and children will enjoy this one hour walk that begins at 10 am. Visit www. smbas.cjb.net or call Lu Plauzoles at (310) 395-6235.

Friday, November 29

Come join a Campfire Program being held at Leo Carrillo State Park at 7 pm. Join a CA State Park ranger for a fun and informative program by the campfire! For more information call (805) 488-1827.

November - January



Dog Lovers! Now through January 2003 the Natural History Museum is showcasing the most comprehensive

exhibition on the history, biology and evolution of wild and domestic canines with the debut of Dogs: Wolf, Myth, Hero & Friend. For more information please call (213) 763-DINO or visit www.nhm.org.

(Johannesburg World Summit...continued from page 1) sustainable development through cumulative local action.

Representing Los Angeles, the largest American city at the Local Government Session of the Summit, were City Councilmember Ruth Galanter and Basilla Yao of the Mayor's LA Business Team. Galanter noted that the "most important lesson from the Summit and associated meetings is that environmental issues such as the provision of clean water can be successfully addressed only as part of a strategy for economic development and self-sufficiency. Sustainable development refers to both economic and environmental stability." An experimental "eco-city," located outside Johannesburg, was highlighted for its use of sustainable practices, featuring recycled paper and bicycle businesses which employ the local community. In describing her experience, the Councilmember states, "It takes only a few days listening to people from Africa and Asia discuss the demands of urbanization and the Europeans discuss the pressures in their highly developed areas to develop real respect for the limits that exist in nature."

During her stay, Councilmember Galanter received a first-hand look at the challenges facing South Africa, "Population growth is far outstripping the government's capacity to provide electric power or even clean water, although the City of Johannesburg has made clean water a priority and done a remarkable job. We were greeted at the airport with plastic water bottles that read "Jo'burg Water; Safe to Drink," as it indeed proved to be." She adds, "We here in America have only the dimmest concept of what the developing world is up against."

Advancing the development of an environmental economy in Los Angeles is a primary focus of the Mayor's Business Team. According to Yao, "As the 16th largest economy in the world, Los Angeles is uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in advancing sustainable development." She adds, "I found it extremely productive and inspiring to exchange ideas with other major cities with similar economic development interests. Across the highly diverse range of cities represented at the Summit, many expressed that one of the most effective means of addressing the multidisciplinary challenges of reaching our common goal of urban sustainability is to link environmental protection to economic development."

Great examples of sustainable development on the local level can be found right here in Los Angeles. Eco-Village, in the Mid Wilshire/Koreatown area, is working to demonstrate the possibilities of a healthy urban community by living sustainably. Information on their project can be viewed at www.ic.org/laev. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is doing its part with GreenLA (www.greenla.org), a program that provides information on topics such as green power, electric vehicles, water conservation, recycling and more. EAD's own programs promote education and awareness of environmental issues as well as provide assistance to individuals and businesses with implementation of sustainable measures.

EAD Welcomes New Staff

EAD welcomes Gina Mooty as a student intern. Gina is a senior at Pomona College in the Public Policy Analysis Program (Biology Major). She will be helping AQD with the upcoming revisions to the Air Quality Management Plan.

EAD is also pleased to announce that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is providing important assistance to the City's Brownfields Program by loaning two EPA staff members Noemi Emeric and Daniel Weissman. Noemi Emeric, moved here from Chicago where she was a Regional Team Manager focusing on Superfund, water and air issues in Southwestern Illinois. She was instrumental in

establishing the first bi-state, bi-regional Brownfields Showcase Community. As the new Brownfields Program Manager, she will be based in the Environmental Affairs Department. Daniel Weissman came from New York where he was a Project Manager for Superfund sites. Prior to working at EPA, he was an Environmental Engineer with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation working on gas station cleanups. He will be based at the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).





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 Environmental Information Center.

Air Quality

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

Asbestos

Asbestos Environmental Hygiene (626) 430-5440

Bee Infestations

Infestaciónes 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

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior *ó* preocupaciones de moho Environmental Hygiene (626) 430-5440

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

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

Recycling

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

Smoking Violations

Infracciónes de fumar Office of the City Attorney (888) 333-0730

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department 200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005 Los Angeles, CA 90012

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