

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.

Greuel Helps Plant Sunland's First Community Garden



Councilmember Greuel helps a child plant in the new community garden.

On Thursday, August 1st, Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel was joined by more than 100 area residents and City officials in dedicating a new 8,000 square foot community garden named in honor of the late Los Angeles City Councilmember Howard Finn, who served the Sunland-Tujunga area as a member of the L.A. City Council from 1981 to 1986. The Howard Finn Community

Garden provides thirty 4' by 8' plots of land for the public to adopt to cultivate fruits, vegetables or flowers and includes a 20' by 20' children's garden. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps developed the \$55,000 project through its L.A. Grows Program using Proposition K grant funding.

"This community garden is a fitting way to honor the memory of Howard Finn," said Greuel. "As the garden continues to grow, it will remind us of Howard Finn's legacy and commitment to the Sunland-Tujunga community. I am proud to represent the communities Howard Finn served and to continue his efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents of Sunland-Tujunga."

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City Installs Particulate Filters to Reduce Toxic Air Contaminates



Particulate Trap on refuse truck exhaust pipe

In an effort to reduce air pollution, the City is implementing an aggressive plan to install particulate filters on City vehicles that emit diesel exhaust. These emissions are a significant health concern, particularly the microscopic soot referred to as Particulate Matter (PM). PM contributes to increased smog, decreased visibility, material damage due to soiling of surfaces, and increased incidences of bronchitis, asthma, and cancer.

Cars, trucks and buses account for about 27 percent of PM emissions in California. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), on a statewide basis, the average potential cancer risk associated with these emissions is estimated at over 500 incidents per million. In the South Coast Air Basin, which includes Los Angeles, the potential cancer risk from diesel PM emissions is estimated to

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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>.

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PLEASE POST

City to Cleanup Abandoned Gas Station

In July, the City of Los Angeles Brownfields Program received two funding awards to assess and clean up former gas station sites that may have leaking underground storage tanks. On July 22, Councilmember Janice Hahn announced that the City had been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the US Environmental Protection Agency to clean up soil at an abandoned gas station site at 335 N. Gaffey Street in San Pedro for conversion into a "Welcome Park". This abandoned site has been scarred by trash, a graffiti marked building, and overgrown weeds for a decade. It has been a priority with the surrounding community that the site be redeveloped as it mars the entry to San Pedro from the Harbor Freeway. The EPA grant also will provide testing to quantify contamination at an abandoned gas station at 4635 E. Valley Boulevard in East Los Angeles and other sites.



An Abandoned Gas Station

The Environmental Affairs Department also received notice in July from the California Water Resources Control Board that the Gaffey Street site has been allocated additional funds from the State Emergency Abandoned and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account to further assist with removing contamination. This is the first year that EAR Account funds are available for use on anything other than emergency sites.

The EAR Account allocation was solicited by the City's Brownfields Program in collaboration with the City's Fire Department, the agency responsible for enforcing the regulation requiring that all unused underground storage tanks be removed. The Brownfields Program is a collaborative project of the Environmental Affairs Department, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, the City's Community Redevelopment Agency, the Community Development Department, and City Council. For assistance with former gas station sites, please call Maxine Leichter at (213) 978-0872.

National Pollution Prevention Week: September 16-22, 2002



Actual size 18" x 24"

In observance of Pollution Prevention Week 2002, EAD's HTM Office is producing two mercury pollution prevention videos in conjunction with the City's Bureau of Sanitation, the nonprofit group Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the American Dental Association. The first video highlights city efforts in preventing mercury pollution before it is created. The second video demonstrates pollution prevention by providing safe best management practice training for professionals who handle mercury. Further video availability and/or airing information will be posted this Fall at: www.lacity.org/ead/eadweb-eba.

The poster shown above has been designed in celebration and support of National Pollution Prevention Week 2002. The U.S. EPA and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, among others, have issued the poster and asked the City of Los Angeles, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) to distribute the poster to representatives of local environmental, community and business groups, including city departments. Key leaders can place these posters at events while distributing information on implementing pollution prevention practices. A limited number of posters are available from EAD's Hazardous & Toxic Materials (HTM) Office. For further information, call the HTM Hotline at (213) 978-0891 or email us at eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org.

(Particulate Filters...continued from page 1)



A Diesel Particulate Trap for reducing emissions, photo courtesy of SCAQMD.

be 1,000 incidents per million. While a number of federal, state, and regional regulatory requirements currently exist for the control of diesel emissions from new engines, the installation of particulate filters on existing diesel vehicles can further reduce the public's exposure to diesel exhaust.

Particulate filters are exhaust after-treatment devices that look like mufflers and are mounted on the exhaust pipe of the vehicle where they capture and incinerate diesel exhaust particulate matter. They can be used on new or in-use vehicles, but do require the use of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (<15 ppm sulfur). Los Angeles has been purchasing this cleaner reformulated fuel for use citywide since November 2001.

Particulate filters also reduce emissions of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, toxic chemicals, and limited amounts of NO_x (a precursor of ozone or smog). Particulate filters that currently are verified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) reduce PM emissions by 85% or more.

From 2000-2002, the City participated in a demonstration program in which ten heavy-duty diesel vehicles (dump trucks, tractors, refuse collection vehicles) were equipped with particulate filters and fueled by ultra low-sulfur diesel. Results showed that emissions were substantially reduced and that fleet operators reported no change in performance. The commitment by the City's fleet managers to use particulate filters is based largely on the success of this demonstration program. In an effort to demonstrate its proactive leadership in addressing the health risk posed by diesel exhaust, the City Council adopted a motion in 2000, as part of the Clean Fuel Policy, instructing that all diesel vehicles in the City's fleet be retrofitted with particulate filters within 30 months of availability of a verified device (Council File # 00-0157).

A total of almost \$4 million in funding has been designated so far for the installation of particulate filters on diesel vehicles in the City fleet and EAD is actively seeking additional grant funds of approximately \$2 million. The General Services Department plans to install approximately 575 filters on City vehicles. In the first phase, 325 refuse collection vehicles will be retrofitted at a rate of 60 trucks per month. Additionally, the City will put nearly 250 filters on Commuter Express buses and a variety of heavy-duty trucks, including dump trucks, flat bed and special purpose vehicles. Furthermore, in the next two years, the City expects to replace up to 240 diesel refuse collection vehicles with new LNG dual fuel trucks with particulate filters. With the retrofit program underway and affecting more than 800 vehicles, the City is far ahead of regulatory requirements and is actively improving regional air quality and reducing the health risk from exposure to toxic air contaminants.

Coming Soon...Rideshare Week



October 7-11 is California Rideshare Week, a statewide event that encourages commuters to try alternatives to driving alone. This annual event promotes a heightened awareness about the benefits of using transportation alternatives like carpools, vanpools, mass transit, bicycles, walking and telecommuting. One of the most important benefits of alternative transportation is an improvement in air quality through the reduction of pollution from automobile exhaust.

Although emissions from an individual car are generally low, the emissions from millions of vehicles on the road add up to high volumes of pollution. For more information on Rideshare Week, be sure to read the October issue of *An Environmental Affair*, visit www.socalcommute.org for rideshare programs and events in Los Angeles, and plan on "sharing the ride" October 7-11!



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

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

California Community Foundation Grants support 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. For more information call (213) 413-4130 or visit www.calfund.org.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) 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.

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. For more information call (510) 286-4169.

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

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. For more information call the U.S. Department of Energy at (800) 683-0751.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awards funds to projects benefiting conservation education, habitat protection and restoration, and natural resource management. Federal and private funds are provided to the Foundation and awarded as challenge grants to on-the-ground conservation projects. The project pre-proposal deadline is **October 15, 2002**. For more information, visit www.nfwf.org/programs/programs.htm.

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 below \$250,000). Small grants up to \$1,000 and full grants up to \$15,000 are available. The deadline is **November 1, 2002**. For more information call (802) 846-1500 or visit www.benjerry.com/foundation/.

Cottonwood Foundation is dedicated to promoting empowerment of people, protection of the environment, and respect for cultural diversity. The foundation focuses its funding on committed, grass roots organizations that rely strongly on volunteer efforts and where foundation support will make a significant difference. For more information or to apply online visit www.cottonwoodfdn.org

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

National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats Wild Seed Fund Mini-grants to 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 National Wildlife Federation by **March 15, 2003**. For more information visit them online at www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats.

Liberty Hill Foundation's Environmental Justice Fund supports grass-roots organizations aiming to improve low-income communities that suffer from environmental pollution and cancer-causing toxins. Grants are awarded with a maximum of \$35,000. The proposal deadline is scheduled no later than **November 1, 2002** by 5:30 pm. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org.

PG & E National Energy Group Environmental Education Grant Program awards grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for innovative programs that encourage and support educating young people about the environment. Those eligible include elementary, middle, and high schools, and nonprofit organizations that are engaged in educational projects related to earth science, conservation, and the environment. **The deadline is September 30, 2002**. For more information visit www.neg.pge.com/grantProgram.html, email grants@neg.pge.com, or call (301) 280-6800.

SEPTEMBER 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. 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. 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. 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 information, call (310) 548-7562.

Satwiwa Saturdays

From 10 am to 4 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 at (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 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 are appreciated. Call Friends of Madrona Marsh: (310) 32-MARSH.



Baldwin Hills Hikes

Hikes 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:**Mon., Sept. 2****Happy Birthday City of Los Angeles!!!**

Come celebrate the City's 221st birthday at El Pueblo from 9 am to 5 pm. There will be food, music, art, a historic walk from San Gabriel Mission to L.A., and much more. For more information, please call Julie Sandoval at (213) 680-2525.

Tues., Sept. 3**Nature's Preschool**

Give your child an early appreciation for the wonders of nature with classes at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon Park. Explore the fields of art, science, and mathematics with nature as the guide. Class begins at 10 am for ages 4-5 with parents. Reservations are required, please call (310) 858-7272 x131.

**Wed., Sept. 4****Angeles National Forest**

Individuals and groups are needed to assist the California Environmental Project (CEP) with a restoration project in the Angeles Forest. Projects usually follow a 4 hour morning or afternoon schedule and are lots of fun. For more information, please call (818) 500-1025.

**Thurs., Sept. 5**

Naturalists Wanted! The National Audubon Society is conducting a six-week training program for volunteers to lead school children through the Ballona Wetlands. No

**California Coastal Cleanup Day
September 21**

Come join in the festivities for California's premier coastal cleanup event. Students, community groups, families and friends are welcome to lend a hand in maintaining California's beautiful and delicate coastal environment. Volunteers are needed for our beaches, rivers, and inland parks. Come to learn about California's marine environment while helping to restore our beaches following the busy summer season.

If you are interested in volunteering for the 18th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day in Los Angeles County, contact Heal the Bay at 800-HEALBAY x126. Cleanup supplies will be provided.

Sun., Sept. 8

KelpFest Come enjoy the 8th annual celebration, hosted by Santa Monica BayKeeper, and learn about the "Ocean's Rainforest." KelpFest will feature family entertainment, kelp products, and surfing demonstrations. Admission is free and the event will run from 11 am to 4 pm. For more information, please call Heather George at (310) 305-9645 x2 or visit them at www.smbaykeeper.org.

**Sat., Sept. 7**

Amigos de Bolsa Chica, located in Huntington Beach, will offer a free public tour from 9 am to 10:30 am. Trained guides will lead visitors over a walkbridge, pointing out the common plants, animals and birds in addition to discussing wetlands conservation, endangered species, and more. For more information, please call (714) 840-1575, email info@amigosdebolsachica.org, or visit www.amigodebolsachica.org

**Sat. & Sun., Sept. 7-8, 20-21****Zoopendous Nights**

If your children's group enjoys the adventures of camping and the wonders of wild animals, the L.A. Zoo is the place for you. Zoopendous Nights gives kids the chance to camp overnight amidst the sounds of animals in their natural surroundings. For more information, please call (323) 644-4253.

Sat., Sept. 14


Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy offers a different nature walk the second Saturday of each month. Come learn about the history, birds, wildlife, plants and geology of this once-channel island. Starting at 9 am, take a strenuous 3 hour walk with a panoramic view of the Portuguese Bend area. For more information, please call the Conservancy at (310) 541-7613, or visit www.pvplc.org.

Mon.-Sun., Sept. 16-22

National Pollution Prevention Week. Please see the NPPW article on page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

THIS MONTH:

(Continued)

Sat., Sept. 14**Ballona Wetlands Land Trust**



invites you to participate in a Ballona Wetlands clean-up from 9 am to 1 pm. Friends and families are welcome to participate in a tour, collect free raffle prizes, and more. Please meet along the Ballona Creek bike path just East of Lincoln Blvd. For more information call Gaelle Simmonds at (310) 567-4777 or visit www.ballona.org.

Sat., Sept. 21**Cabrillo Beach 5th Annual Chocolate Lobster Dive**


Free divers and SCUBA divers, ages 12 and above, are invited to dive into the waters off of Cabrillo Beach for lobster shaped chocolates at 8 am for an activity filled fund raising event devoted to those with a "sweet tooth." Last years participants received prizes worth over \$40,000. For more information or to register call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Sun., Sept 29

"Signs of Hope" TreePeople President Andy Lipkis welcomes Paul Hawken, author of the classic book and PBS series "Growing a Business," to discuss his newest book "Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution," a look at changes taking place in cities and businesses retrofitting themselves for greener future. This event will be held at S. Mark Taper Foundation Amphitheatre in Coldwater Canyon Park. Please call (888) 922-3846.


(Community Garden...continued from page 1)

Children from the Shadow Hills 4-H Club and the local YMCA participated in the ceremony by planting the first plot of flowers in the garden following the ribbon cutting. Anne Finn (spouse of the late councilmember), Recreation and Parks General Manager Manuel Mollinedo, Environmental Affairs Department Division Director Melinda Bartlett and Los Angeles Conservation Corps Director Bruce Saito also participated. The garden is part of Councilmember Greuel's on-going effort to beautify the Northeast San Fernando Valley by protecting open space and involving the community in neighborhood park development.

The Environmental Affairs Department is working with other City departments, Council Offices, and gardening groups to find ways to continue the creation of community gardens in the City of Los Angeles. In 1997, the EAD partnered with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to apply for community garden funding from the new Prop K Citywide assessment. That application secured funding for the Howard Finn Park community garden. As the garden was being created, the EAD provided additional support, augmenting the awarded Prop K funds with other greening grant funds to pay for the fruit tree orchard, the perimeter landscaping, and roses within the garden. EAD promotes and supports gardens in local public schools as well as the community. For more information on the department's Gardens for Kids L.A. program, call Julie Van Wagner at (213) 978-0860.

EAD Staff Changes

The EAD welcomes three new Student Professional Workers: David Porter, a Master of Environmental Science student at Cal State Fullerton, will be assisting the Materials and Waste Resources Division with GIS related projects; Salvador Yu, a Computer Science major at Cal Poly Pomona, who will be assisting the Local Enforcement Agency in establishing a new document management system; and Laurel Gollong, a Master of Landscape Architecture student at Cal Poly Pomona, will be working with the Water & Natural Resources Division helping with grants and outreach events.

EAD also welcomes Gaby Winqvist, a UCLA Master of Urban Planning graduate, who will be working on grant funded tree planting projects as a Project Coordinator and Irene Paul from the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering to the Air Quality Division as an Environmental Supervisor I.

EAD thanks the following staff members for their service and wishes them well on their new roles in the City: Christopher Patton, Environmental Specialist III for the Air Quality Division, has transferred to the L.A. Harbor Department; Donna Chen, Hazardous & Toxic Materials Program Manager, has been promoted to the Bureau of Sanitation's Regulatory Affairs Section; and George Payba, Environmental Specialist II for the Local Enforcement Agency, transferred to the Department of Water & Power.



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

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 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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