

# An Environmental Affair

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2003

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.

## Inside this issue:

Sesquicentennial Passport: Gold Discovery to Statehood	2
Graceful Giants of the Sea	2
EAD Branches Out With the New Environmental Business & Neighborhood Services Division	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-7

## City of LA Takes Delivery of First Fuel Cell Car

On December 2, 2002, in a ceremony held on the south lawn of City Hall, The City took delivery of the Nation's first hydrogen fuel cell car certified for commercial use, the Honda FCX. The President and Chief Executive Officer of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. Hiroyuki Yoshino, was on hand to officially present the City with the FCX. Among the attendees was the Environmental Affairs Department's General Manager Detrich Allen, Environmental Affairs Commissioners Jeffrey D. Kabot and Kim Thompson, Chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management Board William Burke, and California Energy Commissioner Jim Boyd. The vehicle is one of five that will be put into service by City staff and represents a big step forward in vehicle technologies utilized by the City of Los Angeles. The City will lease the vehicles for two years and Honda will provide hydrogen fueling services.

Currently, 17% of the City's fleet consists of vehicles that utilize either liquefied natural gas, propane, or electricity as their power source. The addition of the hydrogen fuel cell represents one of the most promising "clean" alternatives for fueling vehicles, as water vapor is the only emitted exhaust product. The 2003 Honda FCX is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell that produces electricity onboard the vehicle. A fuel cell functions by combining compressed hydrogen (stored in a tank) with oxygen in the air to make electricity.



Honda FCX (side view)



Honda FCX (rear view)



Environmental Affairs Commissioner  
Jeffrey D. Kabot

(Fuel Cell Car...continued on page 3)

*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](mailto: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. 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

## Sesquicentennial Passport: Gold Discovery to Statehood

This past August, the Environmental Affairs Department's very own Karin Christie succeeded in visiting all 150 historic and cultural sites that were included as part of the California Sesquicentennial Passport: Gold Discover to Statehood Program that began in 2000. Karin has been with the Department for over nine years and recently has been made Division Director of its new Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services Division.



Karin holding the Sesquicentennial Passport

The Sesquicentennial Passport: Gold Discover to Statehood Program was designed to be a three year program that included 150 of California's historical and cultural locations. During a visit to each site, participants would have their passport stamped with a distinct image commemorating the location.

Karin's travels have taken her to all areas of the State, from deserts in the south to redwood forests in the north. "I have had such a wonderful time pursuing all 150 of the stamps in the California Sesquicentennial Passport program!" said Karin. "It took a little over two years to visit all of the sites throughout the State, but it was a truly enjoyable and enriching experience." "Only now - after standing at historic spots and seeing and touching artifacts and replicas of earlier times - do I really appreciate and understand all of the California history that I was taught in school."

For more information about this and other programs of California State Parks, please visit their website at <http://www.parks.ca.gov>, call toll-free at (800) 777-0369, or email [info@parks.ca.gov](mailto:info@parks.ca.gov).

## Graceful Giants of the Sea



It's that time of year again when the gray whales migrate from northwest Alaska to the Baja Peninsula off Mexico. Take part in the excitement by watching these gentle giants forage and play along Southern California's coast. From key locations along the shore, climbing aboard a vessel and heading out to sea, or by viewing informative slideshows/lectures, everyone can join the fun and learn about these majestic creatures of the sea.

Gray whales reach maturity at 8 years and generally live from 50-60 years in the colder waters up north where they feed. Each year, during the winter months they migrate to the warmer southern waters of the Baja Peninsula to give birth. These giants of the sea swim at approximately 2 to 6 miles per hour, nearly requiring 3 months to complete their 10,000 mile migration.

One way to view the gray whale is by attending one of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's whale watching events, which include the Whale Fiesta 2003 (*please see the calendar section*), Season of the Whale, The Complete Whalewatch, and Watch Whales with Friends. These events will highlight gray whales, dolphins, and other marine life through activities such as sea voyages, slideshows, and lectures.

For additional information on the listed Cabrillo events, directions, program details, or other activities, please visit Cabrillo's website at <http://www.cabrilloaq.org/events.htm>, call (310) 548-7562, or email [info@cabrilloaq.org](mailto:info@cabrilloaq.org). To view more information about gray whales, please visit Enchanted Learning Online at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales/species/Graywhale.shtml>.

*(Fuel Cell Car...continued from page 1)*



The FCX's in-dash display



The FCX's engine bay compartment features an electric motor.



President and Chief Executive Officer of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. Hiroyuki Yoshino

The electricity is used to power the electric motor, which in turn propels the vehicle. The only exhaust emission is water vapor. Both the California Air Resources Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have certified the Honda FCX as a Zero Emission Vehicle and for every day commercial use. The FCX has an EPA certified range of 170 miles and seating for four people.

For more information on alternative fueled vehicles in the City of Los Angeles, please visit EAD's Alternative Fuel and Mobile Source website at <http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/AlternativeFuelMobile.htm>.

### **Environmental Affairs Department Branches Out With the New Environmental Business & Neighborhood Services Division**

In December 2002, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) added a new division, Environmental Business & Neighborhood Services (EBNS), to better assist Los Angeles neighborhood communities with pollution prevention solutions, storm and waste water issues, and other environmental topics.

The EBNS will join the Department's Air Quality, Materials & Waste Resources, and Water & Natural Resources Divisions and will oversee the Hazardous and Toxic Materials Office and the Environmental Information Center.

To contact the EBNS, please call (213) 978-0888 (800-439-4666 toll free within L.A.). For more information about the department, please visit [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead).

### **Best Wishes and Fond Farewells to EAD Staff**

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) congratulates Heloise Froelich for her dedicated service with the Hazardous and Toxic Materials (HTM) Office and Gina Mooty for completing an internship with the Air Quality Division!

Heloise has been with the Department since 1997 as an Environmental Specialist. Her work has been instrumental toward providing valuable assistance to businesses and residents to reduce and safely dispose of hazardous materials. She will be transferring to the Bureau of Sanitation's Regulatory Affairs Division. As a senior, Gina is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree at Pomona College in the area of Public Policy Analysis.

Please join EAD in thanking them for their services and wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors!



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

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

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.captainplanetfdn.org) for details and an application, or write to Captain Planet Foundation, One CNN Center, Suite 1090, Atlanta, GA 30303.

**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](http://www.homedepot.com) and search for "community involvement" or call 1-800-430-3376.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.calfund.org) or call (213) 413-4130.



**Igniting Creative Energy Challenge** is a contest for K-12 students. The National Energy Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of our second annual "Igniting Creative Energy" Challenge. This contest is an educational competition designed to encourage K-12 students to learn more about energy and the environment. Grand prize winners will receive an "Insider's Tour" of Washington D.C. in June 2003. The deadline to enter is **March 15, 2003**. For registration and additional information, please visit <http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org/guidelines.html>.



The **Kirsch Foundation Environmental Grants** considers environmental issues such as air quality and global warming. The Foundation gives strong preference to funding nonprofit environmental organizations that have a substantial presence in California. Funding efforts include reducing air pollution from mobile sources and the development and use of alternative clean fuel technologies. Grants are generally awarded in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Deadline is **February 28, 2003**. For additional information, visit <http://www.kirschfoundation.org/how/environmental/environment.html> or call (408) 278-2278.



### **FMC Corporation Bird and Habitat Conservation Fund**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and FMC Corporation have formed a multi-year partnership to fund habitat conservation program benefiting birds, with a particular focus on prairie species and waterfowl. The pre-proposal due date is **June 1, 2003** and the final proposal deadline is **July 15, 2003**. For more information, contact Peter Stangel at (404) 679-7099.



### **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](http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats) or contact Laura Wayne at (703) 438-6582.

# 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 information, visit the FoLAR website, [www.folar.org](http://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 or to 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.cabrilloaq.org](http://www.cabrilloaq.org).

### Satwiwa Saturdays

From 10 am to 4pm 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. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com). For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

### Amigos de Bolsa Chica



offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who 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 more information, visit <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org> or call (714) 840-1575.

The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://www.lacity.org/EAD), contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our website calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

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

### Secret Garden Pruning Club

Have you ever wondered how the Rose Garden looks so beautiful? The Exposition Rose Garden is proud to announce the Exposition Rose Garden Pruning Club. Every Wednesday, learn how to take care of your garden through weekly lectures and hands-on sessions that cover pruning techniques, weeding, watering, and more. For information or to join, please call (213) 765-5397 or email to [rosegarden@rap.lacity.org](mailto:rosegarden@rap.lacity.org).

**THIS MONTH:**

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

**All Month Tue-Thur  
Nature Night  
Hike**


Take part in an exciting night-hike with the Sierra Club at Griffith Park all

month long on Tuesdays through Thursdays, 7 pm to 9 pm. Participants are asked to meet at 6:45 pm at the Upper Merry-Go-Round parking lot. The hike is open to individuals ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by adults. This is a free event, so take part and enjoy! For more information, visit <http://noosh.cust.servlets.net/?area=195> or call (213) 485-5501.

**January 1-20, 2003  
Downtown on  
Ice**


Don't miss your chance to enjoy a fabulous winter day of ice skating at

Pershing Square. The Downtown on Ice outdoor ice skating rink will close on Jan 20. There are events for all. Separate rinks are available for children as well as a hockey slap-shot event. 60 minute ice skating lessons are available for \$6 and rental skates for \$2. The rink is open all week. For additional information, call (213) 847- 4970 or visit <http://www.laparks.org/pershingsquare/doi.htm>.

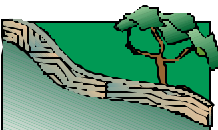
**January Concerts  
2, 9, 14, 16, 20**

**Pershing Square Concerts**  
This month, several musical entertainers will be performing

at Pershing Square from 12 pm to 2 pm. Entertainers include: Che Zuro playing original tunes on an acoustic guitar on Jan. 2; new rock sensation group Circle the Cat on Jan. 9; local blues band Mother Jones on Jan. 14; pop songwriter Sarah Dashew on Jan. 16; all time favorites, reggae band Urban Dread on Jan. 20. The concerts are free and open to all. For more information on these performers, please visit <http://www.laparks.org/pershingsquare/con-01.htm> or call (213) 847- 4970.


**January 11, 2003  
Astronomy  
Program in Three  
Parts**

Come to the Madrona Marsh Preserve to participate in a free introduction to the stars beginning at 10 am. The program is divided into three segments, Children of the Stars, Was There Once Life on Mars, and Recent Developments in Cosmology. Dr. Hacking, an El Camino College instructor will this this program. For more information, please call the Marsh at (310) 32MARSH.


**Habitat  
Restoration  
and  
Enhancement**

Enjoy working outdoors and want to learn about native plants that grew here 200 years ago? Then participate by volunteering at the Madrona Marsh Preserve and learn about the variety of wildlife and vegetation that exists. Volunteers are requested from 9 am to noon. For additional information, please call Shirley Turner at (310) 326-3840.

**Oasis for Wildlife Walk**

Join Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy staff for a two hour walk beginning at 9 am at the

Madrona Marsh Preserve. The walk will open your eyes to an oasis of wildlife that exists in the middle of the city. One hundred years ago, marshes like this were common in this area. Participants are asked to wear long pants, good walking shoes, and bring water. Meet at the Nature Center at the corner of Madrona and Paseo del Amo in Torrance. For more information, call the Conservancy at (310) 541-7613.

**January 12, 2003**
**Whale Fiesta 2003**

Join the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium from 10 am to 4:30 pm to celebrate the kick-off of the 2003



Whalewatch season. This year, in addition to their famous Duct Tape Whale Contest, arts and crafts will be available for children of all ages, talks by whale experts, sea chantey music by Geoff Agisim, a whale poet's corner, and door prizes will be given away. A Whalewatch Reunion will also be held to unite past and present Whalewatchers. Free parking/shuttle from 22nd and Miner Streets will be available to the event at the aquarium. For more information, call the Aquarium at (310) 548-7562 x5015.

**January 18, 2003  
Campus Forester  
Workshop**

Interested in seeing your child's or neighborhood's school greener and cooler? Take part in this workshop by TreePeople from 9 am to 3 pm, which trains parents, teachers, and community members to organize and lead a campus planting project. This is a one-day workshop that provides step-by-step training so you can



**THIS MONTH:**

January 18, 2003 (cont)

make a difference on your campus. Call Mariah at (818) 623-4830 for more information.

**Intimate Lives of Butterflies and Plants**

From 10 am to noon, Jack Levy will be giving a slideshow presentation and a lecture on the unique habits of butterflies and how they associate at the Theodore Payne Foundation. Participants will be given the opportunity to visit the nursery to select appropriate plants to create their very own butterfly nirvana. Members will be charged \$10 and \$12 for nonmembers. For more information, please call the Foundation at (818) 768-1802, visit their website at

[www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org), or email [info@theodorepayne.org](mailto:info@theodorepayne.org).

**Rain Forest Rap**

How much does it really rain in a rain forest? Where are they located? From 9:30 am to noon, learn all about rain forests and the animals that call them home as you sing along during the rain forest rap at the L.A. Zoo. There is an \$18 members fee (\$23 nonmembers). For more information, call the Zoo at (323) 644-6400.

**January 25****Teacher Workshops**

Take part in Generation Earth's one-day teacher's workshop on environmental services. Generation Earth is an environmental education program of the County of Los Angeles,



presented by TreePeople and is available for secondary teachers in the County of Los Angeles. The workshop is free. For more information or to register, please email [aprasad@treepeople.org](mailto:aprasad@treepeople.org) or call Alka at (818) 623-4855.

**January 26-28, 2003****Radical Reptiles**

Learn all about reptiles from alligators to snakes, turtles to lizards, and everything in between at the L.A. Zoo. Class times for weekdays begin at 10 am and for weekends 10 am & 1 pm. The event is open to children ages 3 to 4 with an adult. A fee of \$18 for members (\$23 nonmembers) will be charged, which includes an adult and child. For more information, contact the L.A. Zoo at (323) 644-6400 or visit their website at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).

**PASE Conference**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual "A Garden in Every School" Conference will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2003. Educators will have an opportunity to attend workshops as well as view exhibits, and participate in a make-and-take activity. This year's theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set...Grow!" and will focus on techniques for setting up school gardens quickly and easily. Workshop proposals will be accepted until January 31. If you have an idea for a workshop you'd like to present, please call Chris Braswell at 818/761-3967.

**Christmas Tree Recycling**

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation will offer both Christmas tree collection and drop-off locations this year until the end of January 2003. For hauler pickups, LA residents are asked to cut up their tree and place the pieces within the green waste containers. If uncut trees are placed on the sidewalk, residents must call Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) and schedule a separate pickup. For City drop-off locations and more information, visit the BOS website at <http://www.lacitysan.org/services/xmastree.htm>, or call (800) 773-2489.



The County of Los Angeles's recycling program will continue through January 15, 2003. The County will only offer the standard Christmas tree collection services; drop-off locations are not included in this year's program. Please visit the County's website at <http://www.lacsd.org/> for more information, or call Joe Houghton at (562) 699-7411 x2409.





### 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 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 moh o*  
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

*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

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

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Los Angeles, CA  
Permit No. 12932