

An Environmental Affair

Volume 14, Issue 9

September 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.

Sowing Success with Gardens for Kids L.A.



The Environmental Affairs Department's Gardens for Kids L.A. program is pleased to announce the beginning of its fifth year of bringing gardens to schools throughout the City of Los Angeles. The program creates gardens in schools by constructing above-ground garden beds; supplying plants, seeds, and tools; providing teacher training; and assisting with curriculum. The City-funded program has created 125 new school gardens to date and is now accepting applications from schools to be one of the thirty new participants in the 2003-2004 school year.

The Gardens for Kids L.A. program brings the wonder of gardening, along with a hands-on learning experience, to elementary, middle and high schools throughout the City of Los Angeles. The program also incorporates a recycling component that assists schools in starting a recycling program on their campus. Interactive class presentations show kids how to care for their new plants and demonstrate the types of products that can be created with recy-

(Gardens for Kids...continued on page 3)

National Wildlife Federation Celebrates 30 Years of Stewardship with Backyard Wildlife Habitats

Creating a habitat is a great way to invite birds and butterflies to your yard and create a pleasing landscape. Since 1973 the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Backyard Habitat Program has taught the rewards of stewardship by providing basic guidelines for making backyard gardens more welcoming to wildlife. A backyard habitat improves the quality of the air, soil, and water throughout the community. The effort promotes conservation by reducing and eliminating the need for fertilizers, pesticides and more irrigation water.



Habitat restoration can take place anywhere, even in a container, where a small space can be beneficial for wildlife in an urban or suburban setting. The four basic elements that a backyard habitat provides for wildlife are food, water, cover, and a place to reproduce and raise their young. When planning your backyard, certain features can be kept in mind:

- ◆ In providing food, California native selections are ideal. Many local trees

(Backyard Habitat...continued on page 7)

Inside This Issue:

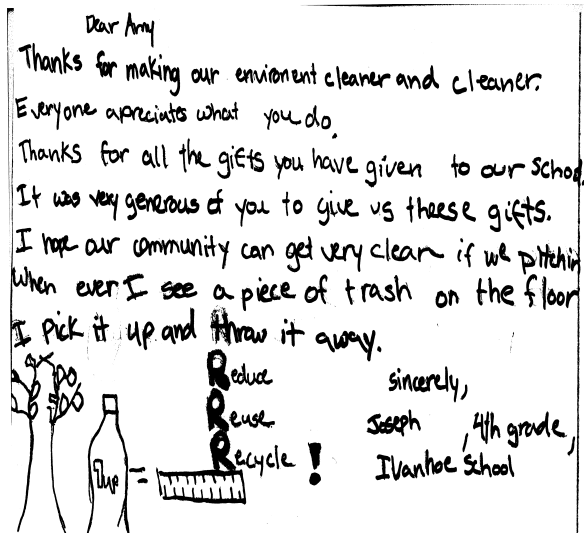
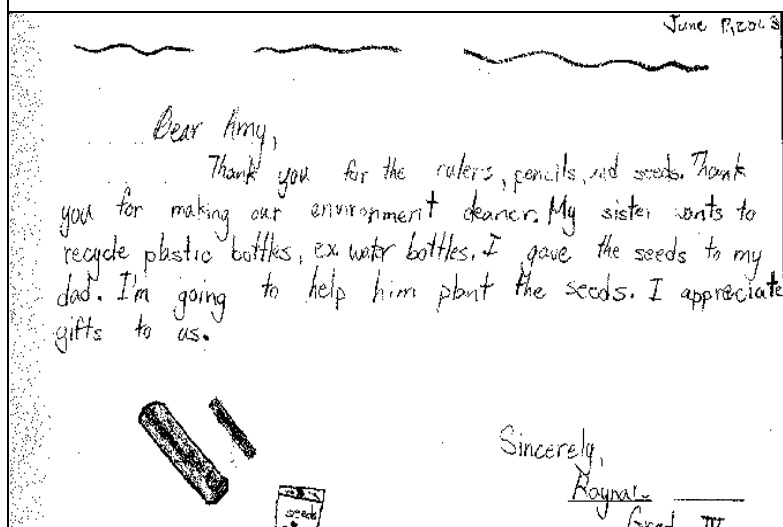
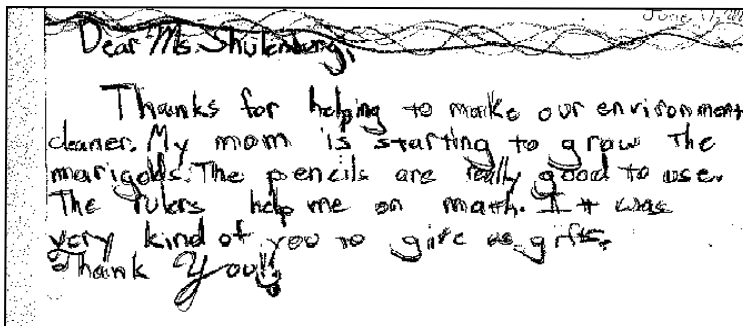
School Letters to EAD	2
New Regulation on School Bus Idling	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
AQMP Update	7
National Pollution Prevention Week	7

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. 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

Thank You Letters from Ivanhoe Elementary School

Earlier this summer, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) staff member Amy Schulenberg gave a presentation of EAD's greening projects to the fourth-graders at Ivanhoe Elementary School, and provided the students with seed packets and rulers and pencils made of recycled materials. Here are some of their thank-you letters regarding her visit:



September 20th is Coastal Cleanup Day!

Cleanup will take place from 9 am to Noon at these and other locations:

- **Venice Beach Pier**
South side of Venice Pier at Washington Blvd.
Thomas Guide: 671-H7
- **Playa Del Rey/Toes Beach**
Parking lot at corner of 62nd St. and Pacific Ave.
Thomas Guide: 702-A3
- **Leo Carillo State Beach, South**
35000 Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)
Park entrance on PCH
Thomas Guide: 625-J6
- **Ballona Creek**
Culver City bike path entrances at:
A. Sepulveda Blvd., Thomas Guide: 672-G4
B. Overland Avenue, Thomas Guide: 672-G3
C. Duquesne Avenue, Thomas Guide: 672-H2
- **L.A. River—Elysian Park**
This site is for adult volunteers only.
Site is located south of N. Figueroa St. on N. San Fernando Road, near the intersection of the 5 Fwy and the 110 Fwy. Park at Home Depot.
Thomas Guide: 594-J7

Please See Page 6 For More Information on Coastal Cleanup Day

(Gardens for Kids...Continued from page 1)

cled materials, including rulers, tote bags, and pencils. Most children are amazed to learn that plastics can be recycled into many different products, including the lumber used to construct their garden beds.



Gardens for Kids L.A. is an interagency effort between the EAD and partners who bring much to the program and add to the program's growing success. Program partners include the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, whose corps members build the garden beds; Los Angeles Unified School District Nutrition Network; California Integrated Waste Management Board; and University of California Cooperative Extension Common Ground Garden program, agencies that provide gardening training and information to participants; and the California Department of Conservation-Division of Recycling, which has provided funding and assistance with the recycling aspects of the program.

EAD General Manager Detrich Allen said, "This program is an opportunity to partner with community groups and other agencies to green and beautify our schools across the city. At the same time, these students have a hands-on learning experience which might not otherwise be available." Interested schools should contact Julie Van Wagner at (213) 978-0860 for an application. Additional information can be found at EAD's website www.lacity.org/ead.

New Regulation to Limit Vehicle Idling at Schools

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) recently adopted the "Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to Limit School Bus Idling and Idling at Schools" in order to reduce public exposure to diesel exhaust particulate matter (diesel PM) and other toxic air contaminants (TACs) by limiting unnecessary idling of specified vehicles. The regulation focuses on reducing school-aged children's exposure to TACs and diesel PMs at and around schools, and while riding school buses or other types of school transportation. The vehicle drivers must turn off their engines upon arriving at their schools, and restart the engine no more than thirty seconds before departing. Drivers cannot idle the engine at any location within 100 feet of a school for more than five minutes.



The ATCM applies to school buses, school pupil activity buses, public paratransit vehicles, youth buses, transit buses and a wide range of other heavy-duty vehicles not used solely as private passenger vehicles. There are various exemptions from this regulation, such as vehicles that must idle to operate heaters or air conditioners to ensure the safety or health of the driver or passengers, and vehicles that must idle to accomplish work for which the vehicle was designed. The regulation took effect July 16, 2003. Further information is available on the ARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/sbidling/sbidling.htm>, or by contacting Beverly Werner through email at bwerner@arb.ca.gov, or by telephone at (916) 322-3984.

Staff Updates

The Environmental Affairs Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Karen Higgins to Environmental Supervisor in the Air Quality Division. Karen has worked for the city in the department of Water and Power, Community Development Department and Bureau of Sanitation.

EAD is also pleased to announce that José Guitierrez accepted a permanent position as Environmental Supervisor with the Air Quality Division. In January, José had transferred from the Planning Department on a temporary appointment.

\$ \$ \$ 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 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, 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 and search for "community involvement" or call 1-800-430-3376.

Reuse Assistance Grants Program has been 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.

Liberty Hill provides assistance to grassroots groups in Los Angeles County and provides training and technical assistance to organizations, increasing their ability to transform lives and communities. The foundation accepts proposals for projects that support social and racial equality, environmental sustainability, economic justice, and shared social responsibility. For more information please visit www.libertyhill.org or call (310) 453-3611.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Program Request for Applications Grant applications from eligible community-based organizations are being solicited in order for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide financial assistance to those organizations through the new Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Program. Community-based organizations who are eligible to receive financial assistance must be non-government, nonprofit organizations currently exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or exempt under applicable state law, and working on or planning to work on projects to address local environmental and/or public health concerns in their communities.



Environmental Justice Grants seek to accomplish a strategically defined set of objectives that address one or more local environmental and/or public health issues by focusing on two key areas (e.g., capacity-building of the community residents, and forming collaborative partnerships).

For More information contact Linda K. Smith, Project Officer, Phone: (202) 564-2602.

Applications must be date stamped by courier service or postmarked by U.S. Postal Service by 12 p.m. Eastern Time, **September 30, 2003.**

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. 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.



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.

Satwiwa Sundays From 11 am to 3 pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Sponsored by the Friends of Satwiwa and the National Park Service. For more information call the National Park Service at (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. 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.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the

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.

3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State 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.

Temescal Canyon Association Evening Hikes

Join the Association every Tuesday night at 6 pm for a 4 to 5 mile evening hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Participants meet at Temescal Gateway Park located off of Sunset Boulevard. The walk lasts approximately 2-3 hours. For more information, contact the Temescal Canyon Association at (310) 459-5931 or (310) 454-4188.



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

This Month**Sept 12-28**

81st Annual Los Angeles County Fair At the granddaddy of all Southland county fairs, Los Angeles County will celebrate their 81st year with carnival rides and games that will flank the midway along with traditional exhibits that delve into fair mainstays such as education, art, horticulture, agriculture, and livestock. The Fair takes place from September 12-28 at the Fairplex located at 1101 W. McKinley in Pomona. Sponsored by Los Angeles County. For more information, visit the Fair's website at www.lacountyfair.com or call (909) 623-3111.

**Sat, Sept 13**

Fishing Derby Anglers aged 15 and younger fish for free and win prizes for the largest catfish caught. The derby takes place from 7 am to noon. There will be community booths, food to purchase and fun for the entire family. Bring your own rod and reel. Hansen Dam Aquatic Center, 11798 Foothill Blvd. For more information call the Aquatic Center at (818) 899-3779. Brought to you by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

September 13

Pt. Fermin/Cabrillo Loop Walk This moderate 2.5-hour walk will begin at the Pt.

Fermin lighthouse. The walk continues down to the shoreline to look at rock formations and tide pools. Participants will hear about the days of the "Red Cars," the history of the Harbor and the local area, and walk back through the "Sunken City." Park in the parking lot for Pt. Fermin Park at the end of Gaffey Street in San Pedro and meet at the lighthouse. The walk begins at 4 pm. Sponsored by the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy. For more information, visit their website at www.pvplc.org or call (310) 541-7613. No reservations necessary. Free.

**Mon, Sept 15 thru
Sun, Sept 21****National Pollution Prevention Week!**

Events happening all week long throughout Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. For details see page 7.

Sat, Sept. 20**19th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day**

is the highlight of the California Coastal Commission's year 'round Adopt-A-Beach program. Coming at the end of the summer beach season and right near the start of the school year, Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our fragile marine environment, show community support for our shared natural resources, learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent it, and to have fun! Coastal cleanups take place from 9 am to



noon. For more information on Coastal Cleanups call (800) COAST-4U or visit www.coastal.ca.gov, also see partial list of local cleanup locations on page 2.

Sat, Sept. 27**Support Your Local Ocean—A Salty Celebration**

This marine conservation festival will feature research vessel excursions, kayak tours and family activities including crafts, demonstrations, and outdoor education. The festival takes place from 9 am to 3 pm at the Sea Explorer Base, 5875 Appian Way at the foot of the 2nd Street Bridge in Long Beach. Sponsored by the Long Beach Marine Institute. For information, contact the Institute at (562) 431-7156 or e-mail lbmi@aol.com.

**Sat and Sun, Sept 27 and 28**

Celebrate LA Festival What do colorful, 10-foot-tall bird puppets, Salsa dancers and delicious foods from Africa, the Philippines and Latin America have in common? You'll find them all at Celebrate LA! the Natural History Museum's exciting new family festival. A celebration of the rich and diverse cultures of Los Angeles, this two-day event will feature song, dance, food, workshops and artistry. The event takes place on the Exposition Park South Lawn and inside the Natural History Museum. Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (NHM). \$9 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. For more information, visit the NHM website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

National Pollution Prevention Week 2003: September 15-21



It's time again! The 2003 National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W), sponsored by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Cal/EPA, and US EPA, gets underway this month to promote public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

Since 1993, the DTSC has dedicated an entire week to educate the public, businesses, schools, and industry associations about pollution prevention, which is an effective tool in protecting the environment, and helping the industrial economy recognize that pollution is best eliminated or reduced at the source. The goal is to have businesses, government agencies, citizens and consumers become more aware of the opportunities to avoid pollution and provide the resources and information to successfully implement prevention.

Activities for recognizing pollution prevention take place statewide. For more information on NP2W, visit the DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/index.html> or by calling (800) 72-TOXIC. DTSC resources for teachers and students on pollution prevention can also be downloaded at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Education/index.html>. The City's Environmental Affairs Division also maintains the Hazardous and Toxic Materials Office and Hotline, which can be reached at (213) 978-0891 or www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-EBA/htmofc.htm.

AQMP Update

At the August 1st Governing Board Meeting in Diamond Bar, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) unanimously approved a new air pollution plan, the 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which provides a blueprint for cleaning the air breathed by 16 million people in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The plan next will be considered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) at its September 25 and 26, 2003 board meeting. The CARB meeting will be held at the SCAQMD, located at 21865 E. Copley Dr. Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182. For the CARB board meeting agenda visit www.arb.ca.gov and for information about the SCAQMD and the AQMP, visit www.aqmd.gov.

(Backyard Habitat Continued from page 1)

and shrubs produce enough berries, nuts, and seeds year round. These natural food sources can be supplemented by bird feeders.

- ◆ Stone walls, bushes, shrubs, rock piles, and evergreens can provide cover and protection. Be sure to include a range of heights as well as density.
- ◆ Having safe places for young to be nurtured is important. In the wild, dead or dying trees provide natural nests known as "snags" for many birds. When natural snags are not present, nesting boxes can be used instead. A shallow water garden can provide the necessary breeding ground for toads and frogs.
- ◆ A water feature that has running water is better than having still water that would attract mosquitoes. Mosquito fish and goldfish in a pond can eliminate mosquito larvae and eggs. Birdbaths should be emptied and washed frequently to prevent stagnancy.



The NWF has a complete listing of recommended plant species for Southern California that are ideal in a naturalistic landscape. Several nurseries also specialize in carrying native species. For more information on creating a backyard habitat, visit the NWF's Backyard Habitat website at <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/index.cfm>.

To see a complete listing of nurseries carrying natives suitable for our region, visit the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) webpage nursery listings at <http://www.lacnps.org/plants.html>, or contact them at (818) 881-3706. The Theodore Payne Foundation also offers native plants; they can be contacted at (818) 768-1802 or <http://www.theodorepayne.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 *Environmental Information Center*.

Air Quality

Calidad del aire

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

Asbestos

Asbestos

Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

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

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construcción y albergar
Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 367-9411

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

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