

An Environmental Affair

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July 2004

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.

Second Food Security Summit Weaves Together Issues of Local Food Access, Public Health, and Sustainable Agriculture

In June, the California Community Food Security Summit, hosted by the California Food and Justice Coalition, weighed in on the State's current policies with childhood and community food access and agricultural pollution. Held at the University of Southern California for two days, the summit had convened to address the topic of "food security," which is defined as access to an adequate, nutritious diet, and is a term used in raising concern over the ties between agricultural industry, health, and poverty.

Roundtable discussions among participants included topics such as the Farm-to-School Program, sustainable agriculture, urban gardening, and the improvement of food-assistance programs. At least 200 participants came from all over California, ranging from farm owners, academics, community organizers, environmentalists, policy-makers and public health administrators.



In her keynote speech, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Deputy Secretary Valerie Brown addresses the issue of direct marketing between small farms and lower-income communities to increase fresh food access.

The first summit, held in Oakland in 2002, met to discuss communities coordinating food access, changes in the Food Stamp program, and issues involving Farmers' Markets. The summit ultimately led to the formation of the Coalition and the motion to change food security at the state policy level. This year's summit drew parallels between the problems of childhood obesity, hunger, and improper diet in low-income areas, and the lack of overall ecological farming and small farms' market viability that are lost due to the globalization of California's agribusiness.

One topic of concern to participants was the future of small farms in California. As in many other states, small farms (product revenues totaling no more than \$250,000) are facing falling market prices, and are disappearing from the rural landscape. Keynote speaker Valerie Brown, Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), cited enormous economic pressure from foreign competitors of the agriculture industry to maximize food production for exportation. With the market emphasis on farms to 'get big or get out,' growers have been utilizing chemical-intensive methods on more acreage, ultimately resulting in ecological pollution, greater demands on natural resources, and smaller farms being edged out of the industry.

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PLEASE POST

Energy Star's "Cool Change" Campaign

Lower your cooling costs this summer while helping the environment! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging Americans to save energy and money this season by increasing the efficiency of their home cooling systems.



In 1992, the EPA established Energy Star® as a voluntary, market-based partnership reducing air pollution by advising and giving consumers energy-efficient choices in products, which range from home appliances, to computers, to new homes. Energy Star's "Cool Change" Campaign offers recommendations such as checking and sealing duct systems; replacing air filters; and sealing homes to keep excess air from escaping through attics, doors and windows. Now, with the assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Star savings can be found on more than 40 products, with more than 9,000 organizations pledging to improve the energy efficiency of their appliances, homes, and businesses.

For tips on making heating and cooling systems more efficient, read the EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating at <http://www.energystar.gov/hvacguide>. For more information about Energy Star and its products, call (888) STAR-YES, or visit their website at <http://www.energystar.com>.

Community Clean-Up a Huge Success

On June 12, 2004, over 1,500 people joined city officials, including Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) General Manager Dee Allen, for a community clean-up and greening of the Boyle Heights area of Council District 14. The event was held from 8 am to 1 pm, and headquartered at Hollenbeck Park, with clean-up work completed throughout the local community. Volunteers helped plant trees at schools and parks, painted murals over graffiti and building walls, cleared debris and bulky items from the streets, and finished off with a steam cleaning of the streets. A similar event



last year brought 1,000 people together to improve their community, and won recognition from the Los Angeles Daily News and USA Today for exemplary community service.

This year's event was even larger. Volunteers finished their day of service with lunch and a celebration complete with bands, dancers and a resource fair of environmental services available in the City. Environmental Affairs Department and other city agencies were on hand to assist the participants, answer questions, and provide children with pencils, rulers, and yo-yos for their enjoyment.



EAD General
Manager Detrich
Allen

The record turnout not only was impressive, but also made a huge difference in cleaning the community. For clean-up events and other environmental activities in Los Angeles, please see the monthly *Calendar of Events* on page 5.

(Food Security Summit...continued from page 1)

Even with the boom of large-scale agriculture production in California, university studies into local communities find weak market infrastructures in lower-income neighborhoods that inadequately supply nutritious choices. The summit highlighted Los Angeles as one example, and included a study from the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development, showing that areas of Los Angeles such as Inglewood, South Los Angeles, and North Long Beach had fewer accessible markets carrying fresh produce than in other suburban areas of the county. The study also showed that these areas had more stores marketing an extensive range of processed and fast foods.

In another summit presentation about Tulare County, where agriculture plays a large role in the local economy, a UCLA health study conducted in November 2002 found that approximately 40% of Tulare County adults experienced food insecurity, which caused them to forego such basic needs as rent, utilities, and medical care, in order to put food on the table. In response, Foodlink of Tulare County, a local food bank under the direction of Sandy Beals, organizes mini-health fairs twice a month at ten low-income and rural sites. Produce, donated by local farmers and ranchers, are distributed at the fairs to families at a rate of 30-40 lbs per household. Organizers use the food distribution as an opportunity to give nutrition tips and health advice. Transportation of the produce from the farms is grant-funded.



Foodlink organizes mini-health fairs in ten different sites. Currently the food bank has a waiting list for more communities requesting the fairs. Photo courtesy of Foodlink.

With lack of food access critical in some parts of the state, Anurdha Mittal, director of the Oakland Institute, and a speaker of the link between food security issues and the global economy, remarked on the grassroots movement in agriculture that appeared to be taking place among small farms, community supported-associations (CSAs), and farm cooperatives throughout the state to market inter-regionally to local communities and schools. The driving market force behind 'New Agriculture,' as termed by Mittal, is the consumers' growing interest in how food is grown, and the relationship of production to safety, flavor, and environmental quality.

One result of this drive, and an integral component of the grassroots support for direct food access, is the California Farm-to-School program, consisting of a network of farms, school districts, and non-profit centers. The goal of the program is to educate school children about how plants are grown and how their environment is maintained; to show the nutritional value of eating fresh foods; and to introduce children to the kinds of foods they may never have seen before or eaten. Due to parent and community support, some school districts have initiated efforts to procure fresh, local produce and incorporate school gardens and nutrition education in their curriculums. The state has been able to provide tax incentives and subsidies to farmers and schools to continue work on the programs. Through its City-funded Gardens for Kids L.A. Program, the Environmental Affairs Department has created gardens at over 160 Los Angeles schools during the last five years.

While young consumers learn about the importance of farms, and valuable life-long eating habits, the industry has responded one farm at a time to the growing public awareness and inclination toward chemical and pesticide-free farming. Although summit presenters covered the environmental necessities and incentives of a sustainable agricultural industry, economic barriers exist for a farm to transition from conventional to organic. Under the California Certified Organic Farmers' (CCOF) guidelines, it takes three years to build a healthy, living soil. An organic farm also can be more management-intensive, requiring more "eyes on the field" to look for problems to arise. According to Thomas Nelson, executive director of the Capay Valley Vision in Yolo County, and presenter from the California Sustainable Agricultural Working Group (CalSAWG), the switch to more organic farming methods can be costly, especially after a conventional farm has made significant investments in its industrial framework.

The California Food and Justice Coalition intends to make available notes and recordings of the food security proceedings held at USC in mid-July. Visit their website at www.foodsecurity.org/california. For more presentation information, or to obtain hard copies of the notes, contact the Coalition at (310) 822-5410.

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

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

Economic Development Strategies that Support Environmentally-Friendly Development Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP)

The Development, Community and Environment Division (DCED) in U.S. EPA's Office of Policy Economics and Innovation is issuing this request for initial proposals (RFIP). DCED focuses on smart growth issues of regional and national significance. Smart growth development practices support national environmental and public health goals by protecting sensitive watersheds, minimizing water quality impacts from development, reducing air emissions by increasing transportation choices, and encouraging cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of Brownfields. Environmental Protection Agency, Attn: Mary Kay Santore, MC 1807T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20460. Or call Mary Kay Santore, Project Officer at (202) 566-2859; or by e-mail at santore.marykay@epa.gov. Deadline for the RFIP is 5 pm EST on **July 19, 2004**. For more information on this grant, visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/econdvl.pdf.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Demonstration Program

The purpose of the Healthy Homes Demonstration Program is to develop, demonstrate, and promote cost-effective, preventive measures to correct multiple safety and health hazards in the home environment that produce serious diseases and injuries in children of low-income families. Through the Healthy Homes Demonstration program, HUD will initiate competitive projects to promote implementation of available risk reduction techniques for the control of key hazards. Approximately four to six grants will be awarded, ranging from approximately \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. For an application or more information on this grant, contact Dorthera Yorkshire, Program Analyst, at (202) 708-0667 ext. 4336; by fax at (202) 708-0531; or by e-mail at Dorthera_Yorkshire@hud.gov. The deadline is **July 13, 2004**.

President's Environmental Youth Awards

Since 1971, EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all 50 states and

the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including recycling programs in schools and communities; construction of nature preserves; major tree planting programs; videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that focused on environmental issues; and environmental science projects. To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the President's Environmental Youth Award application, as well as a completed application. For more information, visit the EPA President's Awards website at www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html, or contact Bill Jones, Region IX coordinator at (415) 947-4276. Applications are due by **July 31, 2004**.

Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences

The Directorate for Geosciences of the National Science Foundation supports research and education in the Earth, ocean, and atmospheric sciences. The primary goal of the Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG) program is to increase participation in the geosciences by underrepresented groups. An important but secondary goal is to strengthen understanding of geoscience and its relevance to modern society among broad and diverse segments of the population. Specifically, the OEDG program supports activities that increase the number of members of underrepresented groups that:

- Are involved in formal pre-college geoscience education programs;
- Pursue bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in the geosciences;
- Enter geoscience careers; and
- Participate in informal geoscience education programs.

For more information about grant awarding, and to read more about the OEDG, visit www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04590/nsf04590.htm; to learn more, contact Dr. Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Program Director for Diversity and Education, Directorate for Geosciences, at (703) 292-8500, or by email at jhuntoon@nsf.gov. Letters of intent are due by **September 14, 2004**.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)



Family Adventures: 2004 Adventures in Nature Summer 2004

Natural History Museum & Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. Explore Earth's creatures, features, and cultures through hands-on experiences, behind the scenes tours, and fun activities. Adventures in Nature gives children, grades Pre-K through 8, the opportunity to explore a wide variety of fascinating museum topics through active encounters that spark their natural curiosity and creativity. To find out more about Adventures in Nature, visit the Natural History Museum website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-ED4U.

Go Wild About The Los Angeles Zoo Summer Program

This two-month summer festival features kid-friendly entertainment, educational activities, and much more, including extended hours every day, July 3 through September 6, from 10 am to 6 pm. The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles. For more information, call the Zoo at (323) 644-6400, or visit their website at www.lazoo.org.

Adventures with a Ranger

Join a State Park Ranger to explore the many wonders of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Free. Walks take one hour. Begins at 9 am. Meet Saturdays at Point Mugu State Park, or Sundays at Leo Carrillo State Park. For more information, call the State Park Headquarters at (805) 488-1827.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)

Sat, July 10

Summer Whale Watch in the Santa Barbara Channel



The American Cetacean Society Los Angeles Chapter presents its annual natural history trip aboard the *Condor Express* to the Santa Barbara Channel. The trip runs from 8 am to 4 pm approximately. Leave the Santa Barbara Harbor aboard the 75-foot jet powered *Condor Express* and head to areas where blue and humpback whales have been feeding every summer. Experienced naturalists will narrate the trip. Fee. For more information, contact Bernardo Alps at (310) 548-0966, or visit the American Cetacean Society's Los Angeles Chapter webpage at www.acs-la.org/index.html.

White Point Nature Preserve



This walk visits the newly preserved 102-acre site which was inaccessible to the public until recently. The easy-to-moderate

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.

1.5-hour walk takes hikers to the former Nike missile base and bunkers that were part of the Los Angeles coastal defense. Hear about the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's (PVPLC) goals for the property and see results of recent habitat restoration work. Hear about the military history of the area. Park on the Preserve (enter gate on Paseo del Mar near Weymouth) or on the ocean-side of the street along Paseo del Mar. Free. The walk begins at 9 am. For more information, call the PVPLC at (310) 541-7613 or visit their website at www.pvplc.org. Cosponsored by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the City of Los Angeles.

**Wed and Thurs, Jul 14-15
and Sat and Sun, Jul 17-18**

Sally Ride Educator Institutes in San Diego

Each two-day institute will combine the excitement and energy of science discovery with an opportunity for professional development. The focus will be on planetary science and the

THIS MONTH: (continued)

search for water and life in our solar system and will feature the latest Mars Rover findings presented by NASA scientists, hands-on Mars-related classroom activities and strategies to encourage girls in science and to ensure gender-equitable classrooms. Optional graduate credit is available. To register or for more information, call Imaginary Lines at (800) 561-5161 or visit <http://www.sallyrideeducators.com/>. \$25 includes a curriculum binder, planetary science resources, pre-Institute reception and continental breakfast and lunch on both days. The Institutes take place at the Supercomputer Center, University of California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla 92093.

Sat and Sun, Jul 17-18

Rattlesnake Avoidance Workshop for Canines

Teach your dog to avoid rattlesnakes when hiking and to warn you when one is in the area. Fee. Sponsored by the Mountains Restoration Trust. Takes place at Headwaters Corner off of the Mulholland Highway in the Santa Monica Mountains from 9 am to 6 pm both days. For more information, contact the Mountains Restoration Trust at (818) 225-9025.



Sun, Jul 18

Our Ecological Footprint -- The International Forest Sponsored by the

TreePeople Passionate thinkers, artists and change agents will inspire new ways to think about the environment. Take a look at how taking responsibility for the environment in the U.S. parallels the work of indigenous people preserving the world's rainforests. With Lynn Twist, founder of Pachamama Alliance; Atossa Soltari, executive director of Amazon Watch; and Todd Paglia, executive director of Forest Ethics. The event takes place at in the S. Mark Taper Foundation Amphitheatre in Coldwater Canyon Park, 12601 Mulholland Dr., Beverly Hills. RSVP to (888) 922-3846. \$5 for Tree-People members, \$10 for nonmembers.

Fri and Sat, Jul 23 and 24

Growing Communities Workshop

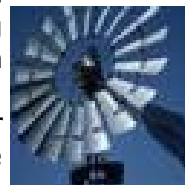
Join the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) and the University of California Cooperative Extension Common Ground Garden Program in Los Angeles County for an in-depth, hands-on workshop based on the ACGA's curriculum for leadership development, "Growing Communities: Community Building and Organizational Development through Community Gardening". Learn proven strategies that community organizers use to develop dynamic leaders and create strong communities through a participatory approach to community building. The University of California Cooperative Extension Common Ground Garden Program office is located at 4800 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue. Registration is \$45 per person for the two-day workshop. Partial registration scholarships of \$30 are available for low-income participants. For more information and to register,

contact Gloria Mitchell at (323) 260-3348, or by email at gjmitche@ucdavis.edu.

Sat, Jul 31 thru Sun, Aug 8

Nine-Day Sustainable Living Workshop

The Solar Living Institute, in partnership with the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at CSU-Pomona, will offer a comprehensive set of workshops in Sustainable Living and Regenerative Design at the Lyle Center located at the Cal Poly Pomona Campus. The Lyle Center is a demonstration site featuring thermal solar hot water research, photovoltaic panels, a windmill, and passive solar buildings. A wetlands that contains runoff from the site, walnut woodlands, edible landscaping, and permaculture gardens are linked to the aquaculture ponds. Fee. For more information, contact the Solar Living Institute in Hopland at (707) 744-2017, or visit their website at www.solarliving.org.



Tues, Aug 3



"Exploring the Antarctic with Captain Don Walsh" at the Aquarium of the Pacific The first sighting of the Antarctic was only 185 years ago. These days about 25 ships navigate up and down the Antarctic region each

summer season. This remote frontier has captured the imagination of many, especially explorer Dr. Don Walsh, who has visited this continent 20 times since 1971. Walsh will show images and discuss what researchers and explorers are doing there now, and the impacts of tourism. For more information, visit the Aquarium of the Pacific's website at www.aquariumofpacific.org, or call (562) 590-3100 ext. 0. \$7 includes Aquarium admission. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

2004 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS COMPETITION

These awards represent the state's highest and most prestigious environmental honor. The awards recognize achievements by individuals, organizations and businesses related to the conservation of California's precious resources, protection and enhancement of California's environment and the building of public-private partnerships. Award categories are Children's Environmental Education, Watershed & Ecosystem Restoration, Sustainable Practice, Environmental-Economic Partnerships, Land Use, Technology Innovation and Sustainable Facilities. The 2004 application can be obtained at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/>. For questions and eligibility requirements, contact the California Environmental Protection Agency at (916) 322-7649. The deadline to enter is **Monday, August 2, 2004.**

Pocket Park Memorializes Neighborhood Leaders

In June, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) planted trees and provided environmental information in support of the West Area Neighborhood Development Council for their Community Pride Day. The neighborhood honored two community members: activist Johnnie E. Raines Jr. (1925 - 2001) and jazz legend Horace Tapscott (1934 - 1999). The event took place at Angeles Mesa Park located at 8th Avenue and 48th Street in the Angeles Mesa Community of Los Angeles. Two memorial plaques were erected and unveiled by the neighborhood council members at the event to memorialize the two community members. EAD planted five trees to also memorialize the day. In a few years, the trees will start to provide some much needed shade for the community members who visit this "pocket park" to relax and use the play equipment.



The day started off with a community trash pick-up inspired by Mr. Raines (who was leader of the 2nd Avenue Block Club for over 40 years!). Volunteers were given large trash bags, and walked around their neighborhood picking up trash to clean up the streets. EAD staff were available to speak with community residents about the Department, hand out give-aways, and provide information about recycling. EAD's General Manager, Detrich Allen, attended the event and stressed the importance

of taking charge of our environment, telling the crowd that EAD is always available to help Los Angeles communities improve their environments.

Help the Environmental Affairs Department Help the Environment!

Sign up to receive an online announcement of *An Environmental Affair* and then access the monthly edition at www.lacity.org/ead. It's no fuss, no hassle, and you will be a big help in saving paper!

To receive the announcement, send us an e-mail with your request at eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, and be sure to include your full name!



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**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

One Call to City Hall
3-1-1

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 articulos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste Disposal *Desem-* *bolso 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 de construccion 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

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Environmental Affairs Department
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